

express

A PUBLICATION OF **The Washington Post** | LIVE ALL DAY AT WWW.READEXPRESS.COM | DECEMBER 14, 2006 | >>**FREE**<<

Thursday



Johnson was hospitalized on Wednesday.

Ailing Senator: Fears of Johnson stroke laid to rest | **3**

AOL Cuts: 450 workers at Va. headquarters lose jobs | **14**

Boston Bound: Japanese ace OKs contract to join the Red Sox | **15**

WeekendPass

Voices Carry:
Maja Ratkje leads an invasion of Norwegian singers in D.C. on Sunday.
» **INSIDE**

Weather » Partly Sunny

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FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 30

Circumcision May Limit HIV

Studies: Procedure cuts risk by half in heterosexual men

WASHINGTON | Circumcising adult men may cut in half their risk of getting the AIDS virus through heterosexual intercourse, the U.S. government announced Wednesday, as it shut down two studies in Africa testing the link.

The National Institutes of Health closed the studies in Kenya and Uganda early, when safety monitors took a look at initial results this week and spotted the protection.

The studies' uncircumcised men are being offered the chance to undergo the procedure.

The link between male circumcision and HIV prevention was noted as long ago as the late 1980s. The first major clinical trial, of 3,000 men in South Africa, found last year that circumcision cut the HIV risk by 60 percent.

Still, many AIDS specialists had been

awaiting the NIH's results as a final confirmation.

"It's not a magic bullet, but a potentially important intervention," said Dr. Kevin De Cock of the World Health Organization.

Male circumcision is common at birth in the United States.

But in sub-Saharan Africa, home to more than half of the world's almost 40 million HIV-infected people, there are large swaths of populations where male circumcision is rare. LAURAN NEERGAARD (AP)

Brazen Killing Raises Tensions in Gaza



VOLATILE SITUATION: A Palestinian youth walks next to burning tires in Gaza Wednesday. The gangland-style killing of a Hamas-affiliated judge, days after three boys were killed, sparked new fears of a civil war between Fatah and Hamas. ♦ **Dim hopes:** Unity government, peace talks seem unlikely | **Page II**

VANITY PLATES | **Tag, You're Out** The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles has recalled the vanity license plates of a Fairfax woman whose plates read "STFU-PLS," the Smoking Gun reported. Kristen Norman said her plates stand for "Stay True For You" — with



"U" representing the word "You" — the motto of a late friend whose initials were "PLS." After the agency received a complaint that the tags stood for "Shut the F--- Up, Please," it told Norman her plates were invalid and to return them. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | **Page 2**

eyeOpeners

HUNTING

Eh, Just Let Them Use Hand Grenades

A Texas lawmaker wants to help more people get the chance to shoot live animals—even if those people can't see. A bill filed for the 2007 legislative session would permit blind hunters to use laser sights, or lighted pointing instruments. "This opens up the fun of hunting to additional people, and I think that's great," said Republican Rep. Edmund Kuempel, the bill's sponsor. "I've seen this on TV before, when they're taking target practice," Kuempel said. "When they aim the gun, the guide tells them, aim two inches higher or two inches lower and you're on the target, and you're off and running." Kuempel's bill would give the state until Jan. 1, 2008, to come up with a definition of legally blind so the law could be enforced. (AP)

THREATS

Fearful Officials Dig Moat Around School

The mother of a Providence, R.I., high school senior who posed in chain mail with a medieval sword for his yearbook picture has sued after the school rejected the photo because of its "zero tolerance" weapons policy. Patrick Agin belongs to the Society for Creative Anachronism, an organization that researches and re-creates medieval history. He submitted the photo in September for the Portsmouth High School yearbook. But the school's principal refused to allow the portrait as Agin's official yearbook photo because he said it violated a policy against weapons and violence in schools, according to a lawsuit filed Monday by the Rhode Island branch of the American Civil Liberties Union. (AP)



LUIS ROMERO/AP

SELF-IMPROVEMENT

Beer Run

It takes some people 12 steps to get through their drinking problems. But these men in Apopa, El Salvador, were willing to take a lot more steps than that. They participated in the Fourth Drunkard Race on Tuesday, an event put together for those motivating themselves to kick alcoholism. After the race was completed, runners were registered in programs to help them stop drinking. They say it's a long road to recovery, but this bunch seems to be covering ground pretty quickly. (EXPRESS)



Still don't accept Jesus as your one true savior? *BLAM!* How about now?

ENTERTAINMENT

Make Every Day Judgment Day!

Some Christian groups are calling for Wal-Mart to stop selling a video game in which players must kill or convert non-Christians, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. "Left Behind: Eternal Forces" is based on the Bible's Book of Revelation and takes place after Jesus has taken the faithful to heaven and left non-believers to face the Antichrist. Christian activists say the game teaches religious intolerance. (EXPRESS)

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29

The final tally of GOP-held House seats won by Democrats in November's midterm elections, clinched by a win in Texas when former Rep. Ciro Rodriguez ousted seven-term GOP incumbent Henry Bonilla in a runoff.

Nation

In Brief

RALEIGH, N.C.

Duke Lacrosse Players Tout Results of Private DNA Tests

DNA testing in the Duke lacrosse rape case found genetic material from several males in the accuser's body and her underwear — but none from any team member, defense attorneys said in court papers Wednesday. The papers were filed by attorneys for the three lacrosse players charged, Reade Seligmann, Collin Finnerty and David Evans. The testing was conducted at a private laboratory for the prosecution. (AP)

FORT CAMPBELL, KY.

Death Penalty Dropped Against Soldier in Rape Case

The Army dropped the death penalty Wednesday as a possible sentence for a soldier charged with rape and murder in the deaths of 14-year-old girl and three others in Iraq. Pfc. Jesse V. Spielman, 22, now faces a maximum sentence of life in prison without parole if convicted, said Maj. Don Lobeda, an attorney with the 101st Airborne Division. Investigators said the soldiers tried to burn the girl's body to destroy evidence of the assault. (AP)

Early Leads For '08

→ Hillary Clinton and Rudolph Giuliani both hold early leads over potential rivals for a 2008 presidential nod, says a Washington Post-ABC News poll. | **Today, A Section**

IN The Washington Post

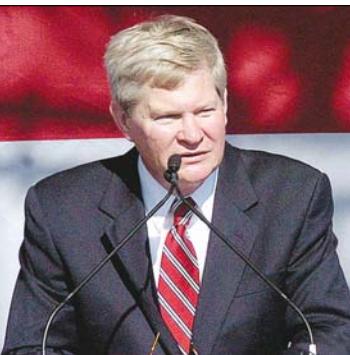
Sen. Tim Johnson Is Hospitalized

Democrat ill before party to take majority by a one-seat margin

WASHINGTON | A spokesman for Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson said the politician did not suffer a stroke or heart attack, contrary to initial reports after Johnson was taken to a Washington hospital, weeks before his party was to take control of the Senate by a one-vote margin.

Johnson, who will 60 on Dec. 28, became disoriented during a conference call with reporters at midday Wednesday, stuttering in response to a question. He was taken to George Washington University Hospital, where doctors were evaluating his condition.

Spokeswoman Julianne Fisher said he walked back to his Capitol office after the call but appeared to not be feeling well. The Capitol physician came to his office and examined him, and it was decided



Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., speaks at a dedication in Mitchell, S.D., in October.

he should go to the hospital.

He was taken by ambulance to George Washington University Hospital around noon, Fisher said.

If the two-term senator must be replaced, South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds would make the appointment. If the Senate is split 50-50, the vice president breaks ties. That is Republican Dick Cheney at present.

South Dakota officials say there are no special restrictions on such an appointment by the governor.

MARY CLARE JALONICK (AP)

Lettuce Is Implicated In Outbreak of E. Coli

Federal health officials say scare over Taco Bell ingredient is likely over

WASHINGTON | Lettuce was the most likely source of an outbreak of E. coli linked to Taco Bell, federal health officials said Wednesday.

Officials said the outbreak appears to be over and that tracing the source of the suspected lettuce could prove difficult because the shredded lettuce was processed in bulk. Taco Bell had said contaminated green onions were responsible for the cases of food poisoning — 71 confirmed cases of E. coli in five states, primarily New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, as of Wednesday, said



Taco Bell had originally said green onions were responsible for the outbreak.

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Follow-up government testing, however, failed to confirm that.

Investigators do not know whether the suspect Taco Bell lettuce was distributed to other parts of the country. (AP)

SPACE | ASTRONAUTS RETRACT SOLAR PANEL

FOLDED GLORY: A solar array panel on the international space station is seen from the space shuttle Discovery on Wednesday. NASA began retracting the 115-foot solar panel so it could install a new, permanent pair of solar wings that could rotate in the direction of the sun.

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Nation



PILL PRECAUTION: Antidepressants increase the risk of suicidal behavior for people up to age 24, the government said Wednesday. It plans new warning labels and says users of all ages should be closely monitored. The label change proposed Wednesday would expand the warning on antidepressants that currently applies only to children and adolescents.

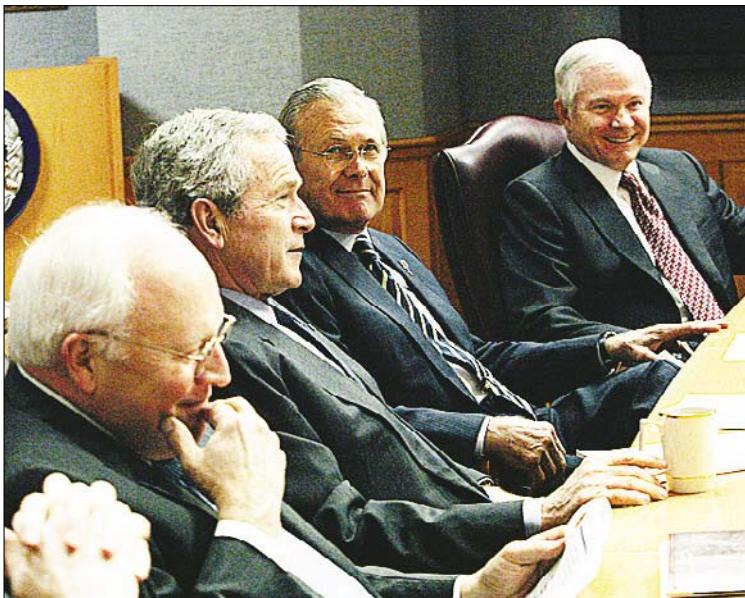
Bush: I Won't Be Rushed Over Iraq

President defends his delay in change of war strategy until January

WASHINGTON | President Bush said Wednesday he would "not be rushed" into a decision on a strategy change for Iraq, saying that in a round of consultations he heard both some interesting ideas and some "ideas that would lead to defeat."

"And I reject those ideas," Bush said after meeting with top generals and Defense Department officials at the Pentagon. He said those ideas included "leaving before the job is done, ideas such as not helping this [Iraqi] government take the necessary and hard steps to be able to do its job."

Bush spoke with reporters after wrapping up a round of high-level talks on revising his Iraq war policy. Earlier, he spoke by telephone with two Kurdish leaders in Iraq as part of what the White House called efforts to forge a "moderate



President Bush meets with Vice President Dick Cheney, outgoing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and incoming Defense Secretary Robert Gates Wednesday.

bloc" behind the shaky central government in Baghdad.

Standing with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Bush said he and the nation's top military commanders had "a very candid and fruitful

discussion about how to secure this country and about how to win a war that we now find ourselves in."

Bush made it clear that "there has been a lot of violence in Iraq. The violence has been horrific."

Although the White House had initially suggested that Bush would deliver his speech on Iraq strategy before Christmas, he has decided to delay it until early next year.

Defending that decision, Bush said, "I will not be rushed into making a difficult decision ... a necessary decision."

Joined by Vice President Dick Cheney, incoming Defense Secretary Robert Gates and outgoing Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Bush met with the military leaders and other members of his national security team at the Pentagon, where war commanders are calling for more U.S. trainers and equipment for beleaguered Iraqi forces.

He addressed some of his remarks to members of the nation's military, including some 140,000 now stationed in Iraq. "I appreciate their sacrifices, and I want them to know I'm focused on developing a strategy that will help them achieve their mission," the president said.

JENNIFER LOVEN (AP)

Senator Pushes Universal Health Care Coverage

WASHINGTON | Several business and labor leaders on Wednesday hailed a proposal to provide health care coverage to all Americans through a pool of private insurance plans.

A dozen years after Congress rejected a Clinton administration plan for universal health care, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden offered a plan he said would provide affordable, private

health care coverage for all Americans, except those covered through Medicare or the military.

"Employer-based coverage is melting away like a Popsicle on the sidewalk in August," Wyden said.

Wyden, a Democrat, said his plan would "guarantee health coverage for every American that is at least as good as members of Congress receive and can never be taken away." (AP)



Wyden

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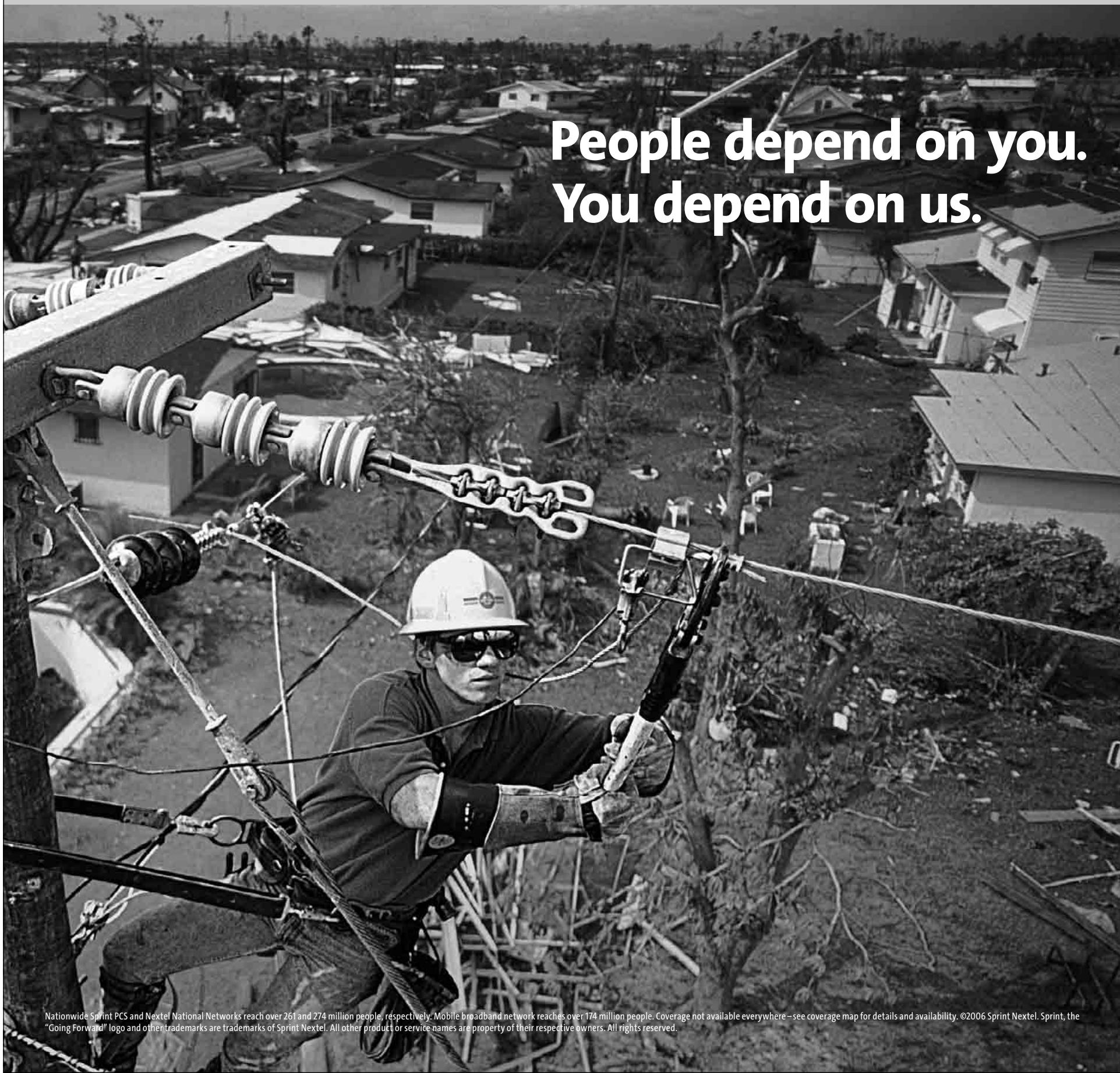
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Nation



FLU FIGHTERS: The first head-to-head comparison of the flu shot and the new FluMist inhalable vaccine found shots were more effective in adults. The study found that a needle in the arm was 67 percent to 77 percent successful at preventing the flu. The nasal spray was 30 percent to 57 percent effective.

Detainee Measure Upheld

Judge approves Bush administration law on holding terror suspects

WASHINGTON | A federal judge upheld the Bush administration's new terrorism law Wednesday, agreeing that Guantanamo Bay detainees do not have the right to challenge their imprisonment in U.S. courts.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge James Robertson is the first to address the new Military Commissions Act and is a legal victory for the Bush administration at a time when it has been fending off criticism of the law.



A U.S. guard opens a gate at Camp Delta at Guantanamo Bay last week.

Robertson rejected a legal challenge by Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a former driver for Osama bin Laden whose case prompted the Supreme Court to strike down the Bush administration's policy

on detainees last year.

Following Hamdan's victory, Bush asked for and got a new law that established military commissions to try enemy combatants and stripped them of the right to seek their freedom in U.S. courts.

Hamdan's case was sent back before Robertson, a nominee of President Clinton who was a prominent civil rights advocate in private practice.

Though Robertson originally sided with Hamdan, he said he no longer had jurisdiction to hear Hamdan's case because Congress clearly intended to keep such disputes out of federal courts. (AP)

Romney OKs Detaining Illegal Aliens

BOSTON | Gov. Mitt Romney, who is weighing a White House bid, signed an agreement Wednesday that allows Massachusetts State Police troopers to detain illegal aliens they encounter over the course of their normal duties.

Under the terms of the agreement, made with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, an initial group of 30 troopers will receive specialized training.

The troopers will be drawn from the Violent Fugitive Apprehension

Squad, the Criminal Investigation Section, the Anti-Gang Unit, the Drug Enforcement Unit and the Community Action Team.

"The scope of our nation's illegal immigration problem requires us to pursue and implement new solutions wherever possible," Romney said. "State troopers are highly trained professionals who are prepared to assist the federal government in apprehending immigration violators without disrupting their normal law enforcement routines." (AP)

Kevorkian to Be Paroled in June '07

Advocate of assisted suicide says he won't aid any more deaths

LANSING, MICH. | After more than eight years in prison, a frail Dr. Jack Kevorkian will be paroled in June with a promise that he won't assist in any more suicides, a prison spokesman said Wednesday.

Officials would not provide further details.

Kevorkian, once the nation's most vocal advocate of assisted suicide for the terminally ill, is serving a 10- to 25-year sentence for second-degree murder in the 1998 poisoning of Thomas Youk, 52, Oakland County man with Lou Gehrig's disease. Michigan banned assisted suicide in 1998.

Youk's death was videotaped and shown on CBS' "60 Minutes."

Kevorkian, who claimed to have assisted in at least 130 deaths in the 1990s, called it a mercy killing.

Mayer Morganroth, Kevorkian's attorney, said this summer that Kevorkian, now 78, was suffering from hepatitis C and diabetes, that his weight had dropped to 113 pounds and that he had less than a year to live.

KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN (AP)



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World



NOTED: Mozart maniacs now have a new way to access material by Austria's famed composer — a free online database with some 24,000 pages of sheet music incorporating all of his works. The site, available at <http://dme.mozarteum.at>, also houses 8,000 pages of critical commentary.

In Brief

GENEVA

U.N. Rights Council to Send Team to Investigate Darfur

The U.N. Human Rights Council, under strong pressure to act against atrocities in Darfur, voted Wednesday to send a team of investigators to the war-torn region of western Sudan to report on civilian deaths, rapes, mass flight and destruction of villages. However, the resolution stopped short of mentioning any role of the Sudanese government or the militias it is accused of supporting. The 47-nation council unanimously passed a resolution expressing "concern regarding the seriousness of the human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur" and calling for a team of five "highly qualified persons" plus the U.N.'s expert on rights in Sudan to look into the atrocities. (AP)

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Court Holds Hearings in Suit Over Evolution Teachings

A Russian court on Wednesday held hearings in an unprecedented lawsuit brought by a 15-year-old student who says being taught the theory of evolution in school violates her rights and insults her religious beliefs. Maria Shreiber sued the St. Petersburg city education committee, saying that her 10th-grade biology textbook was offensive and that teachers should teach an alternative to Darwin's theory. Her father, Kiril Schreiber, who represented her in court Wednesday, said he wants the textbook revised. (AP)

55 Dead in Latest Iraqi Bloodshed

Car bombings, other attacks persist as new Baghdad plan emerges

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | A new round of car bombings and other violence struck Iraq on Wednesday, with 55 people killed or found dead as the Iraqi government unveiled a plan to assume responsibility for security in Baghdad by early next year.

The relentless attacks indicate how hard it may be for the Iraqis to replace U.S. forces in the capital.

The scope of the problem was clear Wednesday, from the first bombing at a bus stop during morning rush hour through the announcement at 9 p.m. that the tortured, bullet-ridden bodies of 21 kidnap victims had been found.

"If you take Baghdad, it's unacceptable levels of violence here right now. We have got to bring it down," said Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, the top American military spokesman in Iraq.

At least 17 people were killed Wednesday in car bombings



STRICKEN: Relatives of a man killed in a car bomb blast cry near his coffin in front of the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf Wednesday.

against Shiite and Sunni targets in Baghdad.

For several months, U.S. and Iraqi officials have been talking about proposals to transfer responsibility of security in cities from American forces to newly trained Iraqi police and soldiers.

Caldwell said Wednesday that the top two U.S. officials in Iraq and the Iraqi leadership were discussing a plan for Iraqi troops to assume primary responsibility for security in the capital.

The New York Times first reported the plan Wednesday, cit-

ing Iraqi National Security Adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie as saying it called for pulling back most American troops from central Baghdad and redefining their mission so they concentrate primarily on fighting al-Qaeda and Sunni extremists.

THOMAS WAGNER (AP)

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TV TIMEOUT: The European Parliament voted on Wednesday in favor of restricting advertising during movies shown on television, and to ban product placement from news bulletins and children's programs across the EU. The new rules still have to be approved by the EU governments.

World

Gunmen Kill Hamas-Linked Judge

Brazen assassination deepens divide among Palestinian factions

KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP | Palestinian gunmen ambushed a Hamas commander outside a Gaza courthouse Wednesday, forcing him to his knees and killing him gangland-style in an attack that threatened to push Hamas and Fatah closer to civil war.

The brazen daylight slaying forced Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas to rush home from a trip abroad and dampened already fading hopes for creating a national unity government and renewing peace talks with Israel.

The attack on the Hamas activist was the latest in a wave of bloodshed that began Monday when unknown assailants gunned down the three sons of a Fatah-allied security officer in Gaza City. Fatah accused Hamas in those killings; the Islamic militant group denied involvement.



TENSIONS ESCALATE: Masked Palestinian Hamas militants march during the funeral for Hamas commander Bassam al-Fara in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

Both sides criticized President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah for failing to halt the violence.

On Wednesday morning, four gunmen calmly ate breakfast at a food stand outside the courthouse in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis as they lay in wait for Bassam al-Fara, 30, a judge at the Islamic court, witnesses said.

When al-Fara, who belongs to the largest clan in Khan Younis, emerged from a taxi, three men grabbed him and forced him to his knees, while the fourth shot him, the witnesses said. The witnesses declined to be identified, fearing for their safety.

Haniyeh, who was in Sudan, said he would return to Gaza on Thursday, cutting short a trip to Arab and Muslim countries including Iran and Syria.

Abbas plans a speech to his people on Saturday in which he is expected to outline his plans to hold elections to break the deadlock between Fatah and Hamas. (AP)

Botswana Tribe Wins Legal Fight Over Land Use

LOBATSE, BOTSWANA | Botswana's High Court ruled Wednesday that the country's Bushmen are entitled to live and hunt on their ancestral lands in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, a decision hailed as a victory for indigenous peoples.

The Basarwa tribesmen had accused the government of evicting them — in many cases at gunpoint — to exploit the diamond and mineral potential of a reserve the size of Switzerland.

The government claimed the tribe agreed to move as part of efforts to protect the reserve, that it had already owned the mineral rights, and that the tribe had been compensated for the land.

By a vote of 2-1, the judges ruled, in part, that the Bushmen were "forcibly and wrongly deprived of their possessions," by the government. Gordon Bennett, a lawyer for tribesmen, said that referred to the land. (AP)

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World



Investigators work near the scene where two bodies, believed to be those of two prostitutes missing for days, were found near Suffolk, England, on Wednesday.



'Suffolk Strangler' Stirs Fear in U.K.

Suspected serial killer may have murdered 5 British prostitutes

IPSWICH, ENGLAND | Fear gripped this provincial port Wednesday after the slayings of five prostitutes, as police hunted for a suspected serial killer and the city and some businesses offered a shuttle service for female workers.

Prime Minister Tony Blair extended condolences to the victims' families in Parliament. For Britons, the attacks recalled the 1970s, when the so-called Yorkshire Ripper killed 13 women, most of whom were sex workers.

"We support the police fully in dealing with the horror of this situation and also with the entirely understandable fear there is in the community," Blair told the House of Commons on Wednesday in an address that prompted a debate over changing policies on prostitution. Some legislators suggested legalizing brothels to make work safer for prostitutes.

Archbishop of Canterbury

Rowan Williams told the British Broadcasting Corp. the killings were not about prostitution.

"I think what we are reminded of quite simply, in the last couple of days, is that every one of these young women is someone's daughter and someone's child and they are human beings who have been very vulnerable and who are made very vulnerable by aspects of our society that need to change."

City authorities and local businesses organized shuttle services to transport women home from work, and the council's monthly newsletter published a safety message advising women not to walk the streets alone. "Stick together," it said.

The five victims, whose naked bodies were discovered over 10 days within a few miles of each other, were all prostitutes.

"Suffolk Strangler," said a newspaper, referring to one of the victims who was found strangled.

Police were working their way through a list of potential suspects Wednesday and investigating more than 2,000 calls made to a hot line.

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI (AP)

45

The amount, in thousands of dollars, of donations made to Washington Mayor-elect Adrian Fenty after his election. Officials are investigating whether the contributions, which are only allowed to pay off debt, violated regulations.

Local

Scalia Urges Pay Raise for Judges

Justice tells Va. group increase would attract best lawyers to bench

MCLEAN, VA. | The federal judiciary will increasingly fail to attract the best-qualified lawyers if judges' pay does not improve, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said Wednesday.

"If you become a federal judge in the Southern District of New York, you can't raise a family on what the salary is," Scalia said to the Northern Virginia Technology Council.

Federal judges earned salaries of \$165,200 in 2006. Scalia said lawyers can earn significantly more by staying in the private sector.

The result, Scalia said, is that the judiciary will increasingly appeal



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, left, speaks about the Constitution to the Northern Virginia Technology Council on Wednesday in McLean, Va.

only to those who have made a career out of public-sector work.

"More and more we cannot attract the really bright lawyers. It's too much of a sacrifice," he said.

Scalia also advocated a theory of constitutional interpretation called originalism, which seeks to discern the meaning of the Constitution as envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

He mocked those who interpret the Constitution as a living document that has evolved over time.

He referred to the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on the death penalty, which has cited "evolving standards of decency" to ban the death penalty of juveniles and the mentally retarded as cruel and unusual punishment.

MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)

D.C. Planning Its Own Crime Lab

WASHINGTON | The District won't have to rely on federal agencies to do its crime laboratory work much longer.

Mayor Anthony Williams announced Tuesday that the District will construct its own forensics and bioterrorism lab three blocks east of L'Enfant Plaza.

He said construction will begin in 2008 and the lab is expected to be built by 2010.

It will house 500 employees who will work in the police forensic lab, public health lab, medical examiner's office and pre-trial services agency. (AP)

Next for Williams: Nonprofit Causes

WASHINGTON | Mayor Anthony Williams said he'll spend part of his time pursuing nonprofit social interests after he leaves office on Jan. 2.

Williams said Wednesday he'll remain committed to cleaning up the Anacostia River and advocating better programs for foster children.



Williams

Williams, who was adopted as a child, said he's concerned about foster-care youths who grow up without resources.

Williams said

that, as mayor, he's proudest of improving social services and bringing Major League Baseball back, and he's most ashamed of the 2002 petition scandal that cost him the Democratic mayoral nomination. (AP)

New, improved: Mayor says he's leaving D.C. in better shape than it was when he started | Today's Post, Metro

The Lotteries

Wednesday, December 13

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	6-4-8
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.)	8-0-4
Mid-day DC 4	6-2-1-8

Evening DC 4 (Tues.) **6-0-5-5**

Rolling Cash Five (Tues.) **2-7-15-18-19**

Daily 6 (Tues.) **5-10-14-21-24-27 (I)**

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	8-5-2
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	4-5-3
Mid-day Pick 4	5-7-8-4
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	6-2-3-0

Match 5 (Tues.) **4-8-11-21-27 (I3)**

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.)	2-4-4
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	5-3-1
Mid-day Pick 4 (Wed.)	7-2-8-5
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	5-3-3-2
Mid-day Cash 5 (Wed.)	1-2-5-10-16
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.)	7-8-9-14-15

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Mega Millions (Tues.) **20-30-31-35-49**

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Now, Too Much Flu Vaccine

Health agencies fear residents are waiting too long to get shots

WASHINGTON | Despite shortages of flu vaccine in past years, health departments in the area are now reporting surpluses, raising concerns that residents are putting themselves at risk of contracting the seasonal virus.

The District's health department said residents haven't been taking advantage of its free flu shots. Philippa Mezile, a department spokeswoman, said most of the agency's estimated 30,000 doses of vaccine are unused. She said a warmer-than-average fall may have contributed to the low turnout.

"I don't know why we wait, but we wait," Mezile said.

In Prince George's County, Md., four free clinics for flu shots were recently scheduled — but no one called to make appointments. So far, the county has dispensed about half of its 4,250 doses, the county health department said. (AP)





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Money

AOL Cuts More Va. Jobs

Some 450 positions eliminated in last major round of layoffs

MCLEAN, VA. | About 450 workers at the Dulles headquarters of AOL received pink slips Wednesday as the company continues restructuring away from its traditional roots as a subscription-based provider of dial-up Internet access.

AOL announced back in August that it planned to cut about 5,000 jobs — or roughly a fourth of its global work force — as it embarked on major changes designed to shift

the company's revenue stream from subscription fees to online advertising. Many of AOL's key features, like e-mail accounts, are now available for free.

AOL spokesman Andrew Weinstein said Wednesday's layoffs essentially represent the final round of job cuts.

Worldwide layoffs roughly matched the 5,000 figure cited back in August, but fewer of the cuts came at the Dulles headquarters than had been anticipated. In all, about 500 were laid off in Northern Virginia, compared with initial estimates of about 1,000.

Most of those laid off Wednesday had jobs related to support of the company's dial-up access service.

"The majority of the employees either knew or suspected they might be impacted," Weinstein said.

In August, AOL's parent company, Time Warner Inc., said it expected to spend \$250 million to \$350 million through 2007 to implement changes at AOL. About half of that was earmarked for employee severance.

Wednesday's cuts leave AOL with a global work force of about 14,000, including about 4,000 in Northern Virginia. MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)

Enron's Skilling Begins Prison Term

WASECA, MINN. | Former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling reported to federal prison on Wednesday to begin serving his 24-year sentence for fraud and other crimes in the collapse of the former energy giant.

Skilling arrived at the low-security prison a little after 1 p.m. EST in a small silver sport utility vehicle.

Even if Skilling earns a few years off for good behavior and for participation in an alcohol treatment program at the Federal Correctional Institution in Waseca, Skilling, 53, will be a senior citizen at the end



Ex-Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling, left, arrives at the prison in Waseca, Minn.

of his 24-year, four-month prison term. That's more than twice as long as the sentence of any other Enron executive.

Skilling and Enron founder Ken Lay were convicted last May on numerous counts of fraud, conspiracy, insider trading and other charges in the collapse of the Houston-based firm, which led to the loss of thousands of jobs and more than \$2 billion in pension plans.

A judge on Tuesday denied Skilling's request to remain free on bond pending his appeal. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Unifi	2.39	+.20	+9.1
CopaHold	48.30	+.345	+7.7
Amrep	115.93	+.733	+6.7
IntPoly	4.37	+.27	+6.6
DolbyLab	32.10	+.76	+5.8

Losers

CooperCo	44.59	-.483	-9.8
NBREInc h	27.58	-.237	-7.9
SAIC n	18.24	-.148	-7.5
HancFab	3.04	-.20	-6.2
Alpharma	22.91	-.48	-6.1

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.25	5.25
3-month disc	4.81	4.87
2-year	4.71	4.58
10-year	4.58	4.49
30-year	4.70	4.60

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Progen	6.48	+.353	+119.7
SonicFdy	4.70	+.88	+23.0
Maxco	10.85	+.81	+20.0
Consulier	6.64	+.89	+15.5
Iomai n	4.99	-.01	-0.2

Losers

PeerlessSys	2.80	-.93	-24.9
MACC	2.52	-.77	-23.4
Pozen	16.09	-.202	-11.2
Tri-S Sec	2.32	-.29	-11.1
Alphatec n	3.66	-.40	-9.9

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5086	.5076	.5651
Canadian Dollar	1.1564	1.1523	1.1504
European Euro	.7573	.7532	.8360
Japanese Yen	117.52	116.90	119.90
Mexican Peso	10.8395	10.8450	10.6240
Taiwanese Dollar	32.49	32.50	33.49

Bank Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
AustNZ	111.11	+.62	+26.2
BcoSNC	18.71	+.10	+41.8
BkofAm	53.09	+.29	+15.0
BkNova g	44.96	-.16	+13.5
Citigrp	52.32	+.07	+7.8
DeutschBk	132.98	+.38	+37.3
JPMorgCh	47.60	-.03	+19.9
MitsuUFJ	12.54	-.08	-8.4
RoyalBk gs	47.21	-.47	+21.1
TorDBk g	58.35	-.40	+10.7
UBS AG s	61.29	+.41	+28.8
UBS Bancrp	35.58	+.20	+19.0
Wachovia	56.34	-.02	+6.6
WA Mutl	44.50	-.05	+2.3
WellsFgo s	35.35	+.01	+12.5

SLIPPERY FISH: The NFL has ruled that the Miami Dolphins violated no league rules after players hinted that the team purchased tapes of the Patriots' offense last week that provided insight into Tom Brady's audible and line-blocking calls, ESPN reported.



Sports

Gibbs Is Pointing Finger at Himself

Redskins have been less disciplined than the coach is used to

REDSKINS | Joe Gibbs isn't shy about taking the blame when the Washington Redskins struggle. "It starts and ends with me" has been his standard reply following each of this season's nine losses.

Maybe it's time to start taking the Hall of Fame coach at his word.

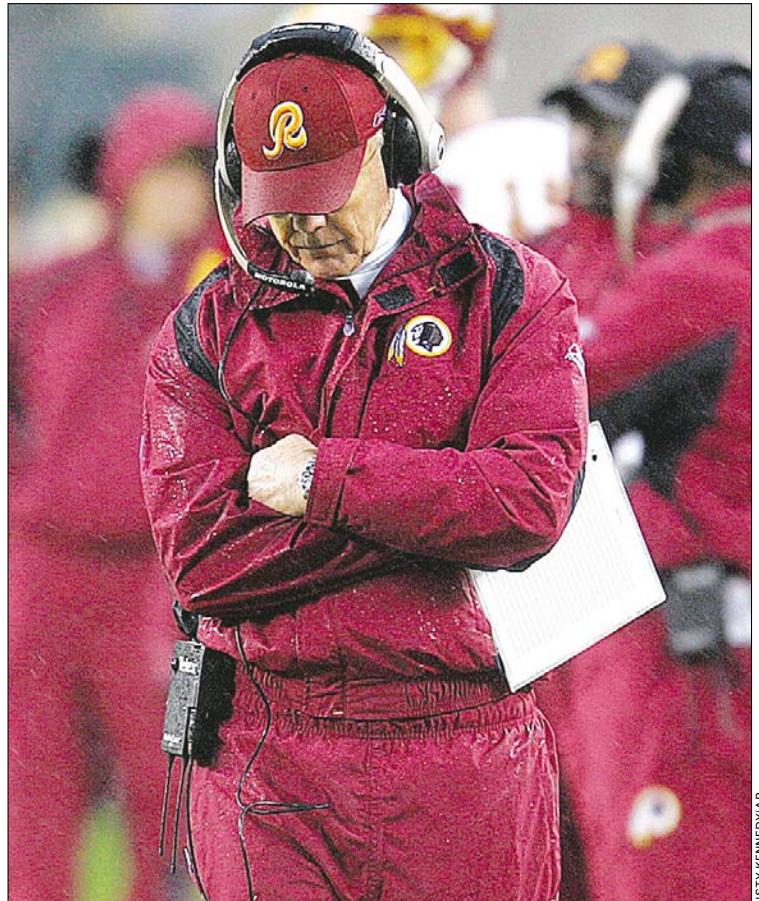
Many of the reasons the Redskins have faltered this season — untimely penalties, poor clock management, embarrassing drives, overconfidence entering training camp, head-scratching trades, questionable free agent signings and a bloated coaching bureaucracy — tie directly to Gibbs' dual role as head coach and team president.

A key play in Sunday's loss to Philadelphia came when a player was called for a penalty because he didn't know a substitution rule, and, yes, Gibbs faulted himself for not making sure the rule was properly explained.

Simply put, the Redskins have too much talent to be 4-9, and even the players themselves are citing intangibles as the scourge.

"It all comes down to discipline," fullback Mike Sellers said.

"It's concentration and readi-



Redskins coach Joe Gibbs looks at the ground during the Redskins' 27-3 loss at Philadelphia last month. The Hall of Fame coach is just 21-26 in his return to the NFL.

ness," center Casey Rabach said.

"We've just got to play smarter," left tackle Chris Samuels said.

"It's mental," right tackle Jon Jansen said. "We've gone out and

beat ourselves. That's the most frustrating thing."

Sellers, Rabach, Samuels and Jansen added that the players themselves were to blame, hardly

surprising given that all four are fans of Gibbs and want to stay in his good graces. But the head coach is the one who sets the tone for matters such as discipline, smarts and readiness, and Gibbs and his staff know it well.

"The players hit it right on the head. I can't deny anything," longtime assistant Joe Bugel said. "Nobody's excused on that. You get what you demand. You have to demand it, and nobody demands it more than Joe Gibbs. It's got to sink in."

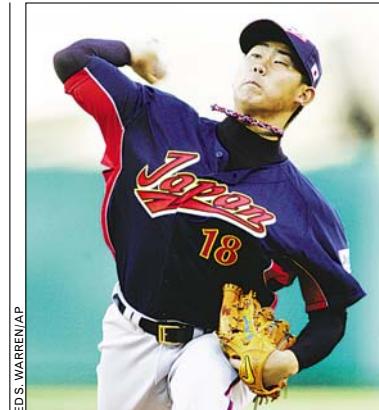
It's All About Speed

→ Al Saunders loves the gifts he sees in Redskins QB Jason Campbell, but he knows that everything needs to be done a little bit faster. | **Today, Sports**

IN **The Washington Post**

It doesn't always. Gibbs is 21-26 since returning from retirement in 2004. He needed time to catch up on all that he missed during his 11 years away, but he seemed to have regained his old form when he willed the Redskins into five straight wins at the end of last season to end the franchise's play-off drought.

"Losing is not a tonic for him," Bugel said. "He's here 24 hours a day. I see what he's going through, but there's no stopping him. He's not a pouter; he's not a complainer." (AP)



Daisuke Matsuzaka arrived in Boston on Wednesday close to a new contract.

Matsuzaka Arrives in Boston

Japanese pitcher nears six-year, \$52 million deal with the Red Sox

BASEBALL | Daisuke Matsuzaka arrived in Boston on Wednesday with Red Sox officials as the sides neared agreement on a \$52 million, six-year contract.

After a four-hour, 43-minute flight from Orange County, Calif., the Dassault Mystere 900 tri-jet of Boston owner John Henry, with a big Red Sox logo on its tail, landed at Laurence G. Hanscom Field in suburban Bedford at 5:16 p.m.

Red Sox chairman Tom Werner, president Larry Lucchino and general manager Theo Epstein were seen coming off the plane with Matsuzaka and agent Scott Boras in a light rain. Three cars were waiting on the tarmac along with a police cruiser with flashing lights.

Several dozen fans were on hand to great Matsuzaka, who waved and smiled as he was driven away from the airport.

In prior days, agent Scott Boras had said he would not allow Matsuzaka to travel to Boston for a physical unless the sides had reached a preliminary agreement.

"You should assume a deal is close or done," an official with knowledge of the negotiations said, speaking on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made. HOWARD ULMAN (AP)

Young, Chow Make a Scary Tandem

Already, the rookie QB has taken big strides under his coordinator

FOOTBALL | Norm Chow knows a thing or two about quarterbacks. Vince Young is showing him something he's never seen before.

"I think he can almost, corny as it sounds, he can redefine what the quarterback position should be like because he's so big and he throws the ball well and he can run," Chow said Wednesday of the Tennessee Titans' rookie quarterback.



Titans QB Vince Young celebrates a 50-yard TD run to beat the Texans in OT.

Want to accelerate the development of a quarterback in the NFL?

The Titans have done just that by pairing an offensive coordinator with a history of churning out Heisman Trophy winners with a physically gifted rookie. But Young has surprised even the Titans with how quickly he has learned, and he's very self-motivated.

"Basically, it's a work in progress for me. I'm not finished yet," Young said.

"I'm not satisfied."

The only question now seems to be how good will Young be eventually? For his part, Chow has been

talking to Titans coach Jeff Fisher about how to help Young continue improving, and he sees seemingly unlimited potential.

"I don't think I've seen a young quarterback learn as fast as he did," Fisher said. "He's got the poise, composure and ability to stay calm in critical situations and make plays, and that's what he's done the last month."

Young went from completing an average of 45.7 percent of his passes the first seven starts to 65 percent the past three weeks. He's already pushed Dan Pastorini's name off most of the team's rookie passing records.

"He has a good feel for getting the ball down the field," Chow said.

TERESA M. WALKER (AP)

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"I didn't mean to offend anybody but Kellen Winslow."

—Steelers LB Joey Porter, who called Winslow a derogatory name and said the Browns are too soft to be a rival to the Super Bowl champs following Pittsburgh's victory last Thursday.



Sports

Bringing Down Gore No Easy Task

To defeat the 49ers, Seattle must focus on the team's star back

FOOTBALL | Mike Holmgren is hoping to get a better defensive effort against Frank Gore this time.

"I think we'd like to tackle him," the Seattle coach said. "We didn't do that in the first game."

Less than a month ago, Gore sliced through the Seahawks' questionable run defense for a San Francisco-record 212 yards rushing in the 49ers' 20-14 victory that made the defending NFC champion look anything but formidable.

San Francisco (5-8) will need a similar performance from its young, standout running back on Thursday night if it wants to avoid watching Seattle (8-5) clinch the NFC West for a third straight season.

A win for the Seahawks will wrap up the mediocre division they've dominated the last three seasons and preserve their slim chances for getting the NFC's



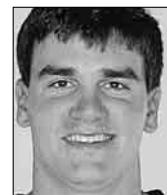
When Frank Gore and the 49ers last played the Seahawks on Nov. 19, the running back rushed for 212 yards on 24 carries, averaging a whopping 8.8 yards per attempt.

No. 2 seed and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

The first step is stopping Gore, who surprised the Seahawks on Nov. 19 with his speed in the open field and power breaking tackles. Gore had 24 carries, averaging 8.8 yards per attempt, as the 49ers capped a three-game win streak to pull even at 5-5.

Even though it was his fifth 100-yard rushing game, doing it against the defending conference champions drew more attention. Seattle linebacker Julian Peterson was one of the few not surprised, having seen Gore develop last season when he was with the 49ers.

"When I saw him on the field, I thought, 'Wow, he's coming off two knee surgeries and he's looking this explosive,'" Peterson said. "He has a lot of talent and you could see it day after day. You saw the star in the making, so to speak." TIM BOOTH (AP)



Delhomme

Delhomme Says It's Frustrating To Miss Games

FOOTBALL | Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme started 66 consecutive games before a thumb injury snapped his streak last week.

Watching from the sidelines is something Delhomme hopes he never has to do again.

"When the teams get introduced and you walk out from the other tunnel, it kind of feels like you have no life inside of you," Delhomme

said Wednesday. "It feels like you aren't part of it. As a player, that's the hardest thing."

Delhomme isn't sure, though, whether he'll be on the field this week as the Panthers desperately try to rally back into playoff contention. He didn't practice Wednesday and is questionable for Sunday's game against the Steelers. (AP)



Live your fantasy: Gene Wang goes over his fantasy football advice for the week. | Today's Post, Sports

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Sports

RFK Will Host the MLS Cup in '07

League's championship set to be played in D.C. for the third time

SOCCER | The 2007 MLS Cup will be played at RFK Stadium, bringing the title game to Washington for the third time, an official within the league told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the formal announcement will be made Thursday in a news conference at RFK.

RFK also hosted the game in 1997 and 2000. The 1997 game drew one of the largest crowds in the history of the stadium, in part because it featured the local team, D.C. United.

In recent years, MLS has staged the game at new, smaller soccer-



Wade Barrett, center, hoists the MLS Cup after Houston won it this year in Dallas. Next year's MLS Cup will be played in Washington for the first time since 2000.

specific stadiums built for its teams. Pizza Hut Park near Dallas hosted the last two MLS Cups.

RFK was not thought to be an ideal candidate once United started sharing the stadium with the Washington Nationals in 2005,

Staying on His Path

→ Luke Runion transferred to Maryland and started a boxing club to help him realize his dream of qualifying for the 2008 U.S. Olympic boxing team. | **Today, Sports**

IN **The Washington Post**

forcing officials to transplant sod every time the stadium's configuration was changed from baseball to soccer. But the MLS Cup will likely be played in November, after the baseball season has ended.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Zidane Inducted Into the Algerian Merit Society

SOCCER | Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika inducted Zinedine Zidane into his country's national merit society on Wednesday, the third day of the French soccer star's visit to the birthplace of his parents.

Bouteflika received Zidane in the presidential palace in the capital, Algiers, for a two-hour meeting.

Bouteflika then presented Zidane with the El Athir medal, inaugurating him into the highest order of Algeria's merit society.

Addressing Zidane, Bouteflika said the medal reflected "your generosity, your solidarity with those in need, as well as your attachment to your country of origin, the respect and admiration of the Algerian people, of which you are a part." (AP)

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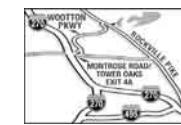
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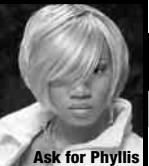
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Sports



FIELD GENERAL: Ravens quarterback Steve McNair has thrown 13 touchdown passes and nine interceptions. His 142 straight passes without an INT is a career best.

Could McNair Be MVP Material?

Quarterback doesn't have the numbers but he's the Ravens' leader

RAVENS | His numbers aren't as gaudy as those of LaDainian Tomlinson or Drew Brees, yet Steve McNair probably deserves the same consideration as those two stars when it comes time to select the 2006 NFL MVP.

The Baltimore Ravens went 6-10 last year. This season they're 10-3. The turnaround can be attributed largely to McNair, who has taken control of an offense that never realized its potential with Kyle Boller or Anthony Wright at quarterback.

"McNair has been outstanding. I saw tremendous lift from Day One," Ravens minority owner Art Modell said Wednesday. "There's something very positive about the man. He's under control, and the team reflects that. I think he's responsible for our success. Not alone, but he's been a good part of our success

offensively this year."

Although McNair ranks 13th in the NFL with an 83.1 passer rating, he has thrown 13 touchdown passes compared to nine interceptions and has led Baltimore to six wins in seven games. He hasn't thrown an interception in four consecutive games, a string of 142 passes that represents the best streak in his career.

McNair enjoyed a fine 11-year run with the Tennessee Titans before the Ravens gave up a fourth-round draft pick to get him in Baltimore. The deal turned the Ravens into a Super Bowl contender — and rescued the career of the 2003 co-MVP.

"It's meant a lot. They saved me from turmoil in Tennessee, and I appreciate that," McNair said. "When you're going into your 12th year, you want to have an established team that has a chance to win a championship. This team has a possibility of doing that. To be a part of this team is amazing. It's heartwarming for me."

DAVID GINSBURG (AP)

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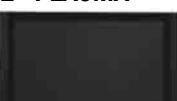
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TODAY'S TV LINEUP

FOOTBALL (8 P.M. ON NFL NETWORK)

The Thursday night games continue with the 49ers traveling to Seattle to play the Seahawks in an NFC West clash.

BASKETBALL (7:15 P.M. AND 9:30 P.M. ON TNT)

The East's best, the Orlando Magic, travel to Charlotte to play the Bobcats, one of the NBA's worst teams. Then, in the late game, the Hornets host the San Antonio Spurs.

140

The number of gold medals China has won so far at the Asian Games, nearly 100 more than its closest competitors South Korea (51) and Japan (49). With one full day remaining (and 41 medals up for grabs), China is 10 behind the 150 medals it won last year.

Sports

CHINA | AN IMPRESSIVE BID ATTEMPT



GETTY IMAGES

DRAWING A CROWD: Hundreds of citizens perform Taiji Fan for the evaluation team of the 2011 Summer World University Games during an event to bid for the games in Shenzhen in Guangdong Province, China. The Shenzhen government promised to build 12 stadiums and gyms in Futian, Nanshan and Luohu districts in the bid document.

Davenport Is Expecting Child in '07

TENNIS | Three-time major champion Lindsay Davenport is pregnant and will miss at least the start of the 2007 tennis season.

Davenport and her husband, Jonathan Leach, are expecting

their first child in early summer, according to a news release issued by her agent, Tony Godsick.

There was no indication whether the 30-year-old Davenport plans to play professionally again.

She won the U.S. Open in 1998, Wimbledon in 1999 and the Australian Open in 2000, along with an Olympic gold medal in 1996. The American has won a total of 51 titles in singles, 36 in doubles, and finished four seasons ranked No. 1: 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2005. (AP)

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Hornets Will Go Back to Big Easy

Owner says leaving Oklahoma is hard, but the right thing to do

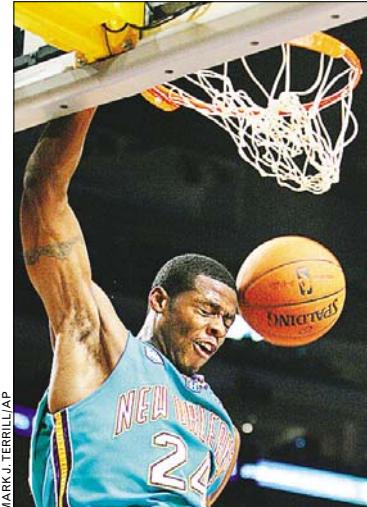
BASKETBALL | Although he always said he would return his basketball team to hurricane-ravaged New Orleans after this season, Hornets owner George Shinn privately was torn.

Shinn faced this choice: Would it be better in the long run to go back to Louisiana, where his team's future would depend in good part on the pace of the rebuilding process after Hurricane Katrina, or stay in Oklahoma City, which embraced the Hornets from the day they arrived last year and supported the team better than New Orleans had?

In trying to answer that question, Shinn typically played to his audience, depending on which city he was in. But after 15 months of walking that tightrope, Shinn said this week his decision is final.

The Hornets will return to New Orleans after this season, he said, for a simple reason.

"The people [in Oklahoma City]



The Hornets have been playing games in Oklahoma City since Hurricane Katrina.

have been not just gracious, they've been wonderful," Shinn said. "But it's just a situation that got down to what is the right thing to do, and the right thing is to go back.

"I know there are questions [and] I'm tired of trying to respond or to try to say this or that. ... Our plan is to go back and to give every effort we can make to make this thing work. That's just the bottom line." (AP)

Television

BUT HE'S ALREADY A CARTOON: Comedy Central has ordered a half-hour pilot featuring Larry the Cable Guy—in animated form. Cartoon Larry stars as a bumbling co-owner of a cable TV station. Bubba's really stretching his chops here.



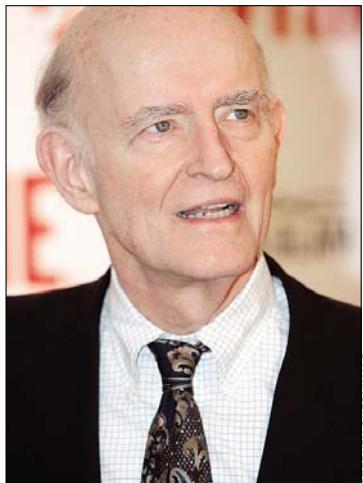
Monster TV Dad

Actor Peter Boyle, 71, dies from myeloma and heart disease

GOODBYE, MR. BARONE | Peter Boyle, the actor known for playing everything from a tap-dancing monster in “Young Frankenstein” to the curmudgeonly father in the long-running TV sitcom “Everybody Loves Raymond,” has died. He was 71.

Boyle died Tuesday evening at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He had been suffering from multiple myeloma and heart disease, said his publicist, Jennifer Plante.

Boyle was beginning to gain



EVERYBODY LOVES MR. B: Peter Boyle starred as Raymond's dad for 10 years.

notice playing hard-bitten, angry types when he took on the role of the lab-created monster in Mel Brooks' 1974 send-up of horror films. The movie's defining moment came when Boyle, decked out in tails, performed a song-and-dance routine to the Irving Berlin classic "Puttin' On the Ritz."

It showed another side of the Emmy-winning actor, one that would be exploited in countless other films and perhaps best in "Everybody Loves Raymond," in which he played incorrigible paterfamilias Frank Barone for 10 years.

Boyle first came to the public's attention with 1970's "Joe," a sleeper hit in which he portrayed the title role, an angry, murderous bigot at odds with the era's emerging hippie youth culture. DEEPTI HAJELA (AP)

ON TV TONIGHT

AWKWARD 'OFFICE' PARTIES

The exquisite agony of **THE OFFICE** (8p.m., NBC) reaches a Christmas crescendo in tonight's hour-long holiday episode. Michael, the obtuse manager, is looking forward to whisking girlfriend Carol off on a surprise Jamaican holiday. But, apparently, Michael's Christmas card was a little forward and she breaks up with him. To comfort his suddenly single boss, Andy, the new guy, invites the forlorn Michael out to a liquid lunch at a Japanese-themed restaurant. Meanwhile, Pam and newcomer Karen revolt against Angela's sober "Nutcracker Suite" party theme with a boozy celebration of their own.



HOLIDAY CHEER: Michael loses his girlfriend and his lunch on "The Office."

and Taylor bicker while hanging decorations and take a fall from a ladder.

YELLING. MORE YELLING.
A brash former supermodel celebrates with family on **“CHRISTMAS WITH THE DICKINSONS”** (8 p.m., Oxygen).

KEVIN McDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

12.14.06		6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS		WRC 4	News CC	Nightly News	Access Hollywood	The Office "A Benihana Christmas"		Scrubz (N) CC	(31) 30 Rock (N)	(-01) ER "All About Christmas Eve" O		News CC	Tonight Show
WTG 5		Seinfeld O CC	The Simpsons O	The Simpsons O	Seinfeld CC	'Til Death (N) O	The War at Home	The O.C. "The Chrismukk-huh?" (N)		News		News	Geraldo at Large
WJLA 7		News CC	ABC 7 News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty "The Box and the Bunny"		Grey's Anatomy "What I Am" CC		(-01) Men in Trees "Talk for Tat" O		News CC	(35) Nightline
WUSA 9		News CC	Evening News	News	Entertainment	Survivor: Cook Islands (N) O CC	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		Shark "Dr. Feelbad" O CC		News CC	Late Show	
WDCA 20		Scrubs CC	Scrubs O CC	Judge Joe Brown	Judge Judy (N) O	Wicked Wicked Games (N) O CC	Watch Over Me "Coupling" (N) CC		The Tyra Banks Show Attractiveness.		Still Standing O	Still Standing O	
WMPT 22		The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	Business Conn.	MotorWeek CC	This Old House	Nova "Flying Casanovas" O		Marion Warren-Eye			Chasing the Light O CC	
WETA 26		BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Viewer Favorites								
WHUT 32		Tony Brown	Tavis Smiley O	BBC World News	Moneywise	Bruce Hornsby: Live at Town Hall O	Ike & Tina Turner: Live in Holland '71	BBC World News	Tavis Smiley O	Charlie Rose (N) O CC			
WDCW 50		My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	Friends O CC	Friends O CC	Smallville "Wither" O CC	Supernatural "Bloodlust" O CC	Will & Grace O	Will & Grace O	Sex and the City	Sex and the City		
A&E		Crossing Jordan O CC	CSI: Miami "Nothing to Lose" CC	CSI: Miami "Nothing to Lose" CC	The First (N) CC			Dallas SWAT CC					Deceiving Innocence: Roger Coleman
Animal		The Crocodile Hunter CC	The Most Extreme "Disguise" CC	Dog Show "AKC Eukanuba National Championship 06/07" From Long Beach, Calif. (N)									Dog Show: AKC Nat'l Champ.
BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Jennifer Hudson. CC	The Black Carpet	The Parkers O	The Parkers O	Girlfriends CC	Girlfriends CC	Girlfriends CC	Girlfriends CC	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx		
Bravo		Top Chef Another chef is eliminated.	Tony Bennett: An American Classic	Christmas in Rockefeller Center O	A Clay Aiken Christmas CC			Top Chef Another chef is eliminated.		Christmas in Rockefeller Center O			
Comedy		(5:00) ★ "Armed and Dangerous"	Scrubs O CC	Scrubs O CC	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Mind of Mencia	South Park CC	Dave Chappelle: Killin' Them Softly	Daily Show	Colbert Report		
Court		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Cops O CC	Cops O CC	★★★ "Lethal Weapon 2" (1989, Action) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci. Premiere.			Most Shocking "Criminal Behavior 2"		Hollywood Heat		
Discovery		It Takes a Thief CC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence CC	A Haunting "The Dark Side"		Surgery Saved My Life Epileptic teen.		Crimes That Shook the World		Sensing Murder Young wife's murder.			
DISCH		Code Blue "Long Way Home"	Impact: Stories of Survival CC	Sextuplets Turn 12 CC		Double Identical Twins CC		Super Quads (N)		Sextuplets Turn 12 CC			
Disney		Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Phil of the Future	That's So Raven	★★ "Smart House" (1999) Ryan Merriman. O CC	Phil of the Future	Life With Derek	Phil of the Future	Zack & Cody	That's So Raven		
E!		Dr. 90210	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	★★★★ "Rain Man" (1988) Dustin Hoffman. The Oscar-winning study of an autistic man and his brother.					E! News	The Daily 10		
FX		King of the Hill O	King of the Hill O	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	★ "The Animal" (2001, Comedy) Rob Schneider, Colleen Haskell.		★ "The Animal" (2001, Comedy) Rob Schneider, Colleen Haskell.					
HGTV		If Walls Could	Small Space	What You Get	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	My Makeover	What's With That Christmas House?	House Hunters	House Hunters	Over Your Head	Don't Sweat It	
Family		Everwood "The Tipping Point" CC	Drummer Boy	Drummer Boy	★★★ "The Polar Express" (2004, Fantasy) Voices of Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter. CC			★★★ "The Polar Express" (2004) Voices of Tom Hanks.					
History		The Big House "Joliet Correctional"	Modern Marvels: Gangster Guns	Engineering an Empire CC		Decoding the Past Kabbalah. (N)		Modern Marvels: High Tech Sex		Sex in the 20th Century CC			
Lifetime		Reba O CC	Reba O CC	Still Standing O	Still Standing O	Reba O CC	Reba O CC	"Crazy for Christmas" (2005, Drama) Andrea Roth, Howard Hesseman. CC	Will & Grace O	Will & Grace O			
MTV		Beauty and the Geek O CC	The Real World	The Real World	Twentyfourseven	Twentyfourseven	Real World-Rd	Real World-Rd	Real World-Rd	Rob & Big (N) O	Twentyfourseven	Twentyfourseven	
NICK		Ned's School	Avatar-Last Air	All Grown Up O	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	
SCIFI		Stargate SG-1 "Maternal Instinct" O	The Lost Room	Joe uses all of his resources and alliances. CC				★★ "Painkiller Jane" (2005) Emmanuelle Vaugier, Tate Donovan. CC		★ "Out for Blood" (2004) CC			
SPIKE		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation O	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation O	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation O	TNA IMPACT! (N) O CC			UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed			
TBS		Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends O CC	Friends O CC	Seinfeld O CC	Seinfeld O CC	Friends O CC	Friends O CC		
TLC		While You Were Out CC	Trial By Choir	A difficult piece in Latin.	House of Tiny Terrors	Final advice.	Jackpot! Overnight Millionaires CC	Holiday Blunders	Holiday bloopers.	House of Tiny Terrors	Final advice.		
TNT		Law & Order "Matrimony" O	NBA Basketball	Orlando Magic at Charlotte Bobcats. (Live) CC				NBA Basketball	San Antonio Spurs at New Orleans Hornets. (Live) CC				
USA		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit O	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit O	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC			Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC	(:05) Law & Order: Criminal Intent O				
VH1		America's Next Top Model O CC	America's Next Top Model O CC	America's Next Top Model O CC	America's Next Top Model O CC			America's Next Top Model O CC	Fabulous Life Of... O				
SPORTS	TELEM	Sala de Parejas	Noti-Telemundo	Viuda de Blanco (N)	Marina (N)	Amor Mio (N)	Amores (N)	Decisiones		Noti-Telemundo	Titulares y Mas		
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Heridas de Amor (N)	La Fea Más Bella (N)	Mundo de Fieras (N)	Aquí y Ahora			Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.		
	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live) CC		NFL Live CC	SportsCenter Top Ten Games (N)	2006 World Series of Poker CC	2006 World Series of Poker CC			SportsCenter (Live) CC			
ESPN2		Series of Poker	Fantasy	Women's College Volleyball	NCAA Championship Semifinal -- Teams TBA.	Figure Skating NHK Trophy. From Nagano, Japan. (Taped) CC				Quite Frankly With Stephen A. Smith			
CSN		Totally Football	SportsNite CC	This Is the PGA Tour CC	Premiership Soccer	Arsenal vs. Chelsea. (Taped)				Pro Football Now	Final Score		
NEWS	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight CC	The Situation Room	Paula Zahn Now CC	Larry King Live CC			Anderson Cooper 360 CC					
	FNC	Special Report (Live) CC	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (Live) CC	Hannity & Colmes (Live) CC			On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor			
	MSNBC	Tucker	Hardball CC	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Scarborough Country			Killing on Keithwood Court (N)		Lost Innocence	Trials occur. (N)		
MOVIES		AMC 15	★★★ "Commando" (1985, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger. 'R'	★★ "Rambo: First Blood Part II" (1985, Action) Sylvester Stallone. 'R'		★★★ "Casualties of War" (1989, War) Michael J. Fox, Sean Penn. 'R'							
TCM 5:30		★★★★ "North by Northwest" (1959) Cary Grant. 'NR' CC (DVS)		★★★★ "Sergeant York" (1941, War) Gary Cooper, Walter Brennan. 'NR' CC (DVS)			★★★ "The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell" (1955) 'NR'						
HBO 5:15		★★★ "Must Love Dogs" (2005)	Costas Now O CC	Inside the NFL O CC	★★★ "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" (2005) Steve Carell, Paul Rudd. 'R' CC			Real Sex 26: Lessons					
MAX 5:30		★★★ "Aliens" (1986) Sigourney Weaver. 'R' CC	(45) ★★★ "North Country" (2005, Drama) Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand. 'O' 'R' CC		★★ "Unleashed" (2005, Action) Jet Li. 'O' 'R' CC								Bikini Cavegirl O
SHOW 5:00		A Love Song for Bobby Long" (15)	★★★ "Payback" (1999, Action) Mel Gibson, Maria Bello. iTV. 'O' 'R' CC		Sleeper Cell: American Terror CC	Dexter "Truth Be Told" (iTV) CC							Sleeper Cell: American Terror (iTV)
TMC (05)		★★★ "Without a Paddle" (2004) Seth Green. 'PG-13'	(45) ★★★ "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993) Tom Hanks. 'O' 'PG' CC		★★ "The Big Lebowski" (1998, Comedy-Drama) Jeff Bridges. 'O' 'R' CC								Wereowl Htr
STARZ! (5:30)		★★★ "Balto" (1995) 'G' CC	★★ "Christmas With the Kranks" (2004) Tim Allen. 'PG'	(45) On the Set	★★★ "Hitch" (2005, Romance-Comedy) Will Smith. 'O' 'PG-13' CC			★★★ "Enemy of the State" (1998)					
ENCORE		Hitchhiker's	★★★ "Hot Shots!" (1991) Charlie Sheen. 'PG-13' CC		★★ "Mindhunters" (2004, Suspense) LL Cool J, Kathryn Morris. 'O' 'R' CC			★★★ "Cliffhanger" (1993, Action) Sylvester Stallone. 'O' 'R' CC					

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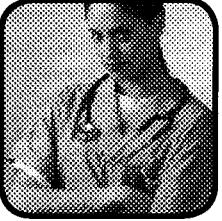
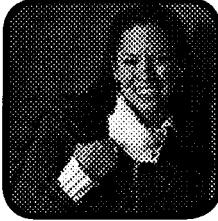
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BMW 2000 M5 —excellent cond, black w/ black and red int, six speed manual, call for options, 97k mi, 30k obo, 443-454-4106

BUICK '98 CENTURY —4 dr, auto, all pwr, loaded, alloy, excell. cond., MD insp. \$2850. 301-674-5122

Cadillac 2006 SRX —\$35,900, Blk, 10k mi, awd, aw, dvd, ultraview, wd grain, luxury seats, paid 44k in May 703-732-9898

Cadillac 2000 DeVille —\$15,500, excellent cond, 77k mi, nav, pearl crimson ext, tan int, 4 dr, mem seats, 301-509-5982

CHEVY '01 CAVALIER —MD insp, 100k mi, new condition, very clean, 5spd. 2dr. \$3400 OBO 240-475-1018

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Chrysler 2005 Sebring —Sedan, V6, 200hp, 28 mpg, pwr d-seat, great cond, under wty, 27k mi, \$11,000 OBO 703-751-0564

GMC '02 Envoy SLE —4WD, Beige, 63k mi. Loaded. On-Star, Excel. cond., Srvrc. warr. \$11,500. 301-894-7376 or 301-706-6438

Honda 2001 Civic —EX \$10,700, 50k mi, excellent cond, new tires, manual, Silver, 4 dr, rem key entry, abs, sunrf, air dr/ps, pb, pw, pwr lck, cd 202-265-0669

Hyundai 2002 Santa Fe —\$8,699, excellent cond, 71k mi, Pewter(Silver) ext, Grey int, 4 dr, alloy wheels, 301-705-6688

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MERCEDES '99 CLK 430 —\$14,500/OBO. Exc. cond, 74k mi, Blk/BK AMG pkg!, mem seats, lthr int, 6 CD changer, 703-442-3375

Mitsubishi 2003 Galant —\$10000 obo, excellent cond, 37K, Burgundy ext, Tan/Beige int, 4 dr, alloy wheels, Transferrable warranty of 37K Must see to appreciate. 703-393-2902

Nissan 2001 Frontier —\$9,000, good cond, 45k mi, Grey ext, Grey int, 2 dr, buckets, abs, IN6ED26T11C318570, 703-327-0390

OLDS '94 Cutlass Supreme —Auto 4dr, v6, runs great \$12000 202-744-7187.

Toyota 2004 Corolla —CE \$10,500, 44K, Tan ext/int, Alarm, Cruise, Pwr lck, Remote keyless entry, 5spd, CD, 1 owner, Clean. 703-533-6771

Toyota 2002 Camry Solaria —\$8000 obo, mint cond, garaged, fully loaded, 122k mi, nav, 18" whls&trs, hds, free bluetooth system, remote start, silver ext, blk lthr int, 202-441-7682

TOYOTA '02 CAMRY XLE —Lthr seats, woodgrain int, new tires & rims. Excel. cond, low mil. \$11,500 obo. 202-549-5550

Toyota 2001 Prius —\$11,900, excellent cond, 69k mi, Gray, Extended warr. 72k, Hybrid warr. 100k, VA HOV plates, 703-314-3484

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A quick read on the day's news.

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FIT - Exercise tips, workout apparel and gear, recipes and more. Tuesdays.

Weekend Pass - Weekend concerts, movies, events, and more. Thursdays.

Weekend Styles - Stylish stuff for your wardrobe, your parties and your home. Fridays.



express

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LOOK out

* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Impulse Buys

Want some candy with your batteries? Home Depot hopes so

Snickers bar with that circular saw? Life Savers with that laser printer? Mr. Goodbar with that batting glove?

An increasing number of the nation's largest retailers are looking to squeeze impulse buys out of customers by offering candy, gum and mints at their cash registers.

The nation's largest home-improvement retailer, Home Depot, has just joined those ranks, giving a big boost to the candy industry's efforts to open what it calls "alternative" channels.

"You name it, where there's a consumer and there's a chance for a consumer to buy an impulse thing like candy, we want to be there," said Larry Lupo, the vice president of small outlet sales for Masterfoods USA, which is a division of Mars Inc.

The Hershey Co., Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co. and Masterfoods each has sales groups devoted to persuading nontraditional retailers to sell candy. Mostly, they target major

“ You name it, where there's ... a chance for a consumer to buy an impulse thing like candy, we want to be there.”

LARRY LUPO, MASTERFOODS

retailers: Dick's Sporting Goods, Circuit City, AutoZone and Staples, to name a few, carry candy bars and more.

With candy now greeting customers at nine out of 10 Home Depot stores, the trend is undeniably gaining strength, say analysts and company officials.

"A lot of [retail] companies have started to pay attention to it in recent years," said Len Teitelbaum, the managing director of the New York-based Roosevelt Investment Group, who formerly tracked candymakers for Merrill Lynch.

The type of candy being carried might vary — for instance, more high-end candy in a clothing store where women tend to shop.

In Staples stores, bags of miniatures sell best as an office-supply item, say, for a waiting room. For the holidays, Staples even adds

INSIDE

Some comfort and joy for new parents | 31



Blog Log: The fun of using Mr. Bento | 32

Britney Bud: Paris defends Spears | 34



SWEET TOOTH: Giant retailers like Home Depot have added candy to their inventory to increase their impulse sales.

Spot Chocolate

shelf space for gourmet candy and advertises it on the public address system.

Teitelbaum estimated that the candy companies' sales through non-traditional outlets have doubled over the last several years, although the relative proportion remains small compared with sales at pharmacies, groceries, convenience stores and mass merchants.

Wrigley spokesman Brian

Wright said sales in alternative channels account for about 5 percent of the company's revenue.

"For us, it's not just the current sales, but the long-term potential that makes it attractive because you never know what the next hot retail concept will be," Wright said.

Not everyone has been receptive. Department stores still have yet to broadly sign on to the concept, Masterfoods' Lupo said. And Home

Depot's main competitor, Lowe's, has no plans to offer candy with its cases of bottled Gatorade and water, spokeswoman Chris Ahearn said.

Some analysts questioned the wisdom of selling candy at Home Depot and other nonfood retailers. The phenomenon is great for the candy companies, but does nothing to improve the core business of the retailers, said George Whalin, the president and CEO of Retail Management Consultants in San Marcos, Calif.

"To dilute that business by selling things that are not relevant to that business is foolish to me," Whalin said. "When you focus on what you do best, you do it better. I don't want to go to a surgeon who knits Afghans on the side." MARC LEVY (AP)

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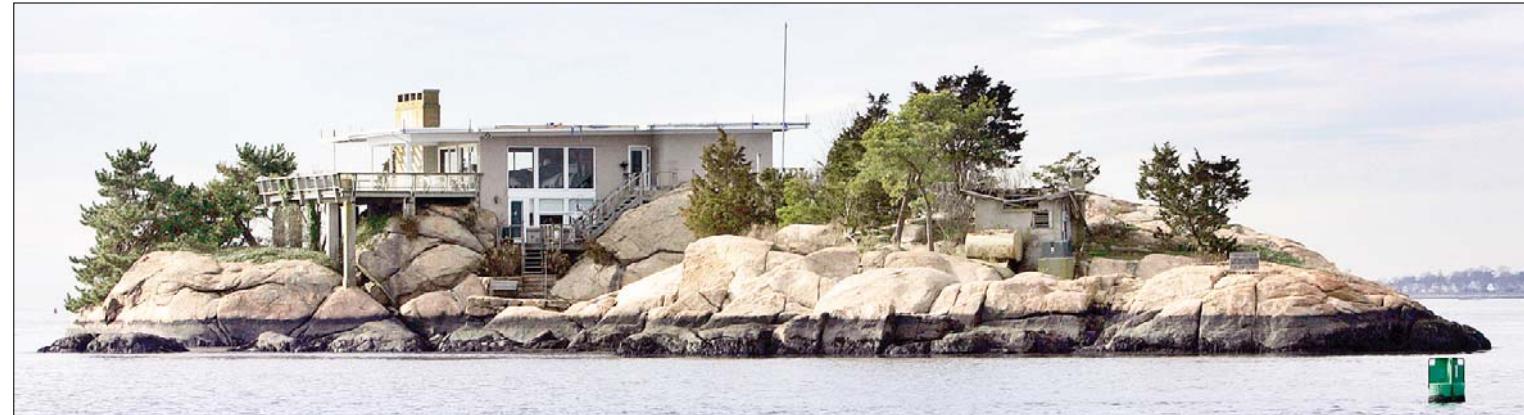
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Look out



East Crib Island, left, is one of several Christine Svenningsen has bought.

ful gardens, including one with lillies.

"You can smell it before you get to the dock with your boat," she said.

Svenningsen's late husband, John, bought a home on the islands in the late 1970s. After he died in 1997, she began to buy up more of the islands.

She bought the house where Thumb courted "Miss Emily." Local legend has it that his boss, P.T. Barnum, ordered Thumb instead to marry "Miss Lavinia," another of his performers.

Thumb's and Emily's names remain etched in a rock near the house.

Svenningsen shocked the town in 2003 when she paid \$23.5 million for the 7.75-acre Rogers Island, with a Tudor-style mansion, tennis court, docks, swimming pool and bathhouse. It remains the highest price one of the Thimbles has fetched.

She said developers might otherwise buy up the islands and build condominiums.

"It's not the Hamptons, and I don't think any one wants it to become the Hamptons," Svenningsen said. "I think we all like it the way it is, a little slower pace of life." JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN (AP)

The Island Collector

Subject

Widow goes on a major spending spree in Long Island Sound

Some people collect stamps. Christine Svenningsen collects small islands.

The widow, whose private ways and extravagant tastes in real estate have tongues wagging along Connecticut's coast, has spent about

\$33 million in recent years to buy 10 of the Thimble Islands in Long Island Sound.

The secluded islands, known by the Mattabesec Indians as "the beautiful sea rocks," have attracted legends and luminaries for generations. Circus star Tom Thumb found love on the islands, and treasure hunters have combed them for Captain Kidd's buried riches.

Svenningsen's buying spree has created something of a mystery.

"It's like a movie," said Valerie Wiel, who owns a market on the mainland town of Branford, of

which the islands are a part. "Is she going to buy the whole town? The town has been pretty much the same for a long time. To me, this points to more change than people would be comfortable with."

Svenningsen, the middle-aged widow of a party goods magnate, bought her latest island last week for \$2.7 million and has her eye on another one.

"There's no master plan," Svenningsen said in what she called her first and only interview. "They're like little pieces of art. I get to put my brush to them."

“This points to more change than people would be comfortable with.”

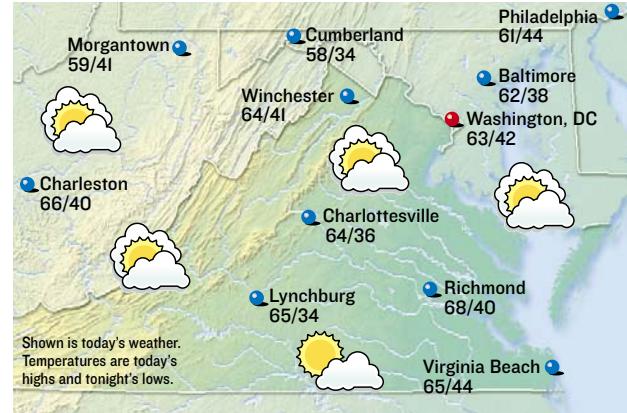
VALERIE WIEL, BRANFORD

An artist, she is renovating many of the historic homes and paints the furniture with bright fish and other nautical themes. She fills her islands with color-

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly sunny, morning fog 63°	Clear 42°	Partly sunny 63° / 41°	Mostly sunny 60° / 44°	Mostly sunny 60° / 47°	Partly sunny 61° / 44°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.

Temperature

High	52°
Low	44°
Normal high	48°
Normal low	33°
Average humidity	92%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.09"
Month to date	0.15"
Normal month to date	1.26"
Year to date	46.36"
Last year to date	42.00"
Normal year to date	37.56"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

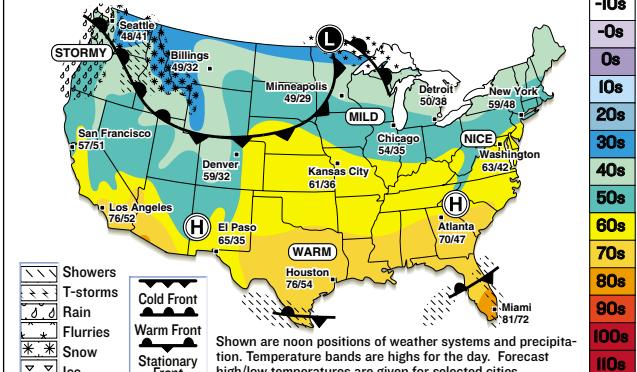
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, patchy morning fog. High 63. Wind west-southwest 4-8 mph. Tonight, clear. Low 42.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:19 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today 1:29 a.m.
Moonset today 1:03 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
Dec 20				
Dec 27				
Jan 3				
Jan 11				

National Weather for Thursday, December 14



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	70/47/s	68/49/s	Amsterdam	55/45/sh	52/45/s
Boston	56/43/pc	55/40/pc	Athens	60/46/pc	61/46/s
Chicago	54/35/pc	53/40/pc	Berlin	52/38/pc	50/39/s
Dallas	75/47/s	76/57/s	Buenos Aires	84/66/r	75/66/s
Denver	59/32/pc	61/27/pc	Calgary	38/24/c	30/15/sn
Honolulu	83/72/s	83/70/s	Dublin	55/45/r	48/36/sh
Los Angeles	76/52/s	69/49/pc	Geneva	54/30/pc	56/37/s
Miami	81/72/sh	81/69/r	Moscow	36/32/sf	43/37/sh
New York City	59/48/pc	57/45/pc	Rome	58/52/c	59/50/pc
Orlando	78/62/c	76/62/r	Sydney	88/66/pc	73/61/r
Seattle	48/41/r	42/31/sh	Tokyo	52/45/r	54/43/pc

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Styles

Look out



1



2



3



4



5

Beauty



Here We Are Now, Goin' to the West Side

With a music-inspired bottle, Bond No. 9's new scent, **WEST SIDE** (\$125, Saks Fifth Avenue), tries to celebrate the music-saturated section of the Big Apple. And while we can't attest to the connection between scent and sound, we can tell you that this is a sophisticated, nuanced scent that is good enough to pull our perfume-saturated noses back from the brink of despair, where nothing can be seen but another super-sweet or smooth-erly floral concoction. This is very light, but not weightless, and hints at sexiness, rather than skanking it up.

KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Beauty



Sage Goes Super

Sometimes when we get a product we don't care if it works, and we just want to write, "Seriously, you guys, it smells so good. Just buy it." Such is the case with the new Paul Mitchell **LEMON SAGE BODY WASH** (\$11, sleekhair.com). The citrusy-herbal smell is most notable for what it doesn't smell like: namely, Pledge, Pine-Sol or Thanksgiving stuffing. Instead, it's an invigorating scent for those who can't stand peppermint, plus it just smells so clean. And! It suds up to **HUGE** bubbles! Yay, bubbles! k.p.k.

Your First Noel

There's no denying that babies have it pretty good. Everyone thinks they're cute, they get carried everywhere and they don't have to worry about pausing the TiVo when nature calls. Plus, when a baby is born, it gets all sorts of presents, while its support staff get nothing but stress and sleep deprivation. Pamper new parents with gifts that cater to their needs, leaving them ready to deal with all the joys parenting offers. JAMIE PAGE DEATON

HOLIDAY
HOT
LIST

1) Tattoos for Babies: Remind your friend that parenthood doesn't mean the end of wild ways. Ink up the newbie with these easily removable tattoos. Extra bonus game: Add one, then see how long it takes Grandma to notice! (\$5.50, Wake Up Little Suzie, 3409 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-244-0700)

2) Merry Maids Gift Card: Ever notice how, when the stork visits a house, he leaves the place trashed?

Let new parents enjoy their baby in a neat and healthy environment with the cleaning power of a gift card. Because the price varies, err on the side of largess. Purchase it at merrymaids.com, and the new dad or mom can redeem it by contacting any local Merry Maids franchise.

3) Italian Paradigm Sateen 600 Bedding: When Junior sleeps, Mom and Dad should sleep, too. Though new parents don't need an excuse to crawl into bed, a luxurious set of sheets doesn't hurt. Since these sheets are so nice, it might not be the best gift for co-sleeping families: Decadent bedding and upset tummies don't mix. (\$349 for queen, [Restoration Hardware](http://RestorationHardware.com))

4) Classic Terrycloth Bathrobe: Most new parents report that it's a good day when they can manage to take a shower and get dressed. If your friends are going to spend the day in their bathrobes, you'd better make sure the robe is up to it. The fabric is ideal for cradling a baby and absorbing any messes; monogramming helps sleep-deprived parents remember who that other adult in the house is. (\$80, [Pottery Barn](http://PotteryBarn.com))

5) Toaster Slippers: Some babies are fussy, and the only way to calm them is to walk them up and down the hall ... and up and down the hall ... and up and down the hall. If parents are going to be covering that much ground, they need to do it in comfort. Toaster slippers from Apartment 48 have rubber soles for support and are lined with shearling for warmth. (\$38, apartment48.com)

Lookout Online



from readexpress.com

Forensic Freedom for D.C.

CONSTRUCTION | For more than 25 years, the District has had to rely on federal agencies and others to conduct its local forensic work. On Wednesday, outgoing Mayor Anthony Williams announced that District officials' wish for the city to have its own facility will be granted, with a new building to be built in the normally bureaucratic environs near the Federal Center SW station.



Williams

Services Agency. The building will be constructed on 4th Street SW between School and E streets. The site is currently home to a D.C. fire station and a Metropolitan Police Department division headquarters. The fire station will be rebuilt as part of the new building. The D.C. police division will move to leased space at 225 Virginia Ave. SE.

Construction is slated to start in 2008 and finish in 2010. The building is expected to cost \$250 million.

MICHAEL GRASS (EXPRESS)

Pessimism Over Iraq

POLL CENTER | A Washington Post/ABC News poll released Tuesday reported that 52 percent of Americans say the U.S. is losing the war



AP/GETTY IMAGES

IRAQ: As the situation worsens, polls show pessimism in the U.S. is growing.

in Iraq. For Wednesday's Poll Center question, Express passed that question along to readers.

A majority of respondents, 82 percent, appeared to agree with the Post/ABC News poll's results.

Amid the pessimism, a number of commenters expressed hope that

the U.S.' fortunes might improve

Said commenter SF: "It looks pretty bad each day. However, I hope we can salvage something from this situation. I hate to think what will happen if we can't leave Iraq with some kind of victory."

Others see a more cynical side of the equation. Said commenter Nick: "No, we have not lost the war — yet. But all you people out there can keep hoping that we do so it will be one more thing you can criticize the president for. If we do lose, we will all be very sorry."

Commenter Ms. E questioned the U.S.' priorities: "The United States needs to take care of home first and get their act together before trying to tell someone else how to run their country. M.G.

Coming Up Today

Can all transit failures be Metro's fault? In the case of one slow G2 Metrobus, blame Georgetowners and a D.C. cop for poor crosstown service.

Poll Center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should the U.S. government offer universal health care?

1. Yes
2. No

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Is the United States losing the war in Iraq?

YES

82%

NO

18%

As of 6 p.m. Wednesday. Not a scientific poll.

GIVE YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S POLL QUESTION AND GET A STATION-BY-STATION BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR FELLOW METRORAIL COMMUTERS VOTED AT [READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP](http://readexpress.com/pollcenter.php)



"[E]ver since I've been using my Mr. Bento, I'm enjoying my lunch more. No more boring see-through Gladware containers."

ZANDRIA.US PICKS UP ON A MAKE-YOUR-OWN LUNCH TREND: A PRODUCT MODELED AFTER THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE BENTO BOX, A COMPACT COMPARTMENTALIZED CONTAINER FOR MULTIPLE DISHES.



Watch Where You Park

"You: Shiny black luxury looking new car stopped right in the crosswalk forcing me to walk in the traffic lanes. Me: Woman on foot with big plastic pail swinging and accidentally whacking your shiny new car."

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"What they want should be what is done, period, paragraph, end of story."

ORDINARYEVERYDAYCHRISTIAN.BLOGSPOT.COM THINKS THAT THE REV. BILLY GRAHAM AND HIS WIFE SHOULD DECIDE WHERE HE'S BURIED AFTER READING AN ARTICLE IN THE POST ABOUT A FAMILY CONFLICT OVER THE ISSUE.



Horse Lovers vs. Darfur Genocide

"If you took every card, letter and gift sent to wish him a speedy recovery and placed them directly in his stall, Barbaro would never acknowledge them with a grateful whinny. ... Where's the message board for Sudan, anyway?"

FORTRESSOFPILLOWS.BLOGSPOT.COM THINKS POSTING MESSAGES ON A GET-WELL BARBARO MESSAGE BOARD IS A WASTE OF TIME.

Live Online

The Date Lab

SANDY M. FERNANDEZ and **JILL HUDSON NEAL**, the editors behind the Post magazine's Date Lab, were online at washingtonpost.com Wednesday to discuss the phenomenon.

This remark may sound sexist, but goodness, some of the men you've featured have been absolute jerks! I love reading Date Lab but sometimes find myself gasping out loud at remarks that are made.

S.F.: Maybe because I'm a woman, I actually find myself becoming more irritated by members of my own gender. Honestly, I think women feel more comfortable trashing men, and men are more cautious about what they say.

When reviewing "applicants," have you guys seen any really interesting write-ups? It just seems that the little bios we've seen are so generic and clichéd.

S.F.: The questionnaires — as many people have complained — are three pages long. We're trying to pick the

interesting ones. But by the time it gets on the page, it's a tiny bite, which may make them sound more generic.

Most men out there are jerks (call me jaded, whatever). Not even the pros at D.L. can sniff out the dogs.

J.H.N.: Well, you know how that goes: one woman's jerk is another gal's dream man. And unless someone owns up to being a jerk in their questionnaire, we have no idea how they'll behave once they're on their date. But let me make one thing clear right now: If you're a guy and you're about to go on a date, do not send a text message out to another woman during the meal. It may seem like a funny idea at the time, but, dude, you'll pay later.

Why can't you feature more "train wrecks" between two totally different people, e.g. a hot social climber and a working-class stiff? I think these would be more enjoyable to watch than your plain vanilla professionals.

S.F.: We need more working-class stiffs. Not surprisingly, most folks who apply to this thing are younger, tech-savvy white-collar professionals.

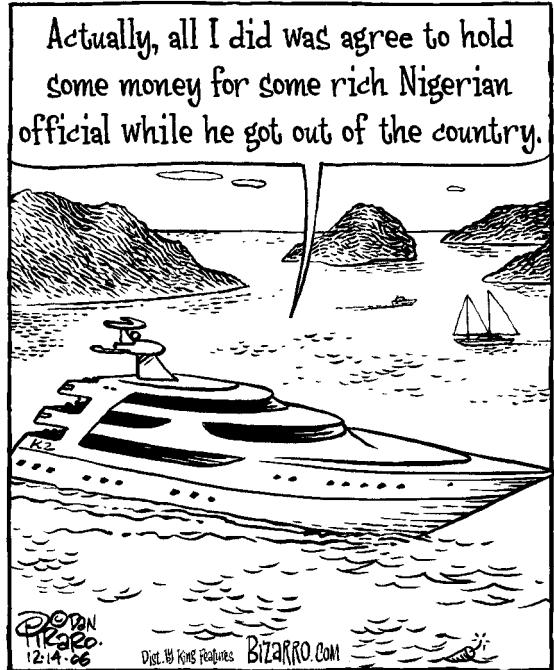


NAME A PLANE. Virgin America has some new jets it's about to start using here in the United States, and it wants your help naming them (nameourplanes.com). If your name is picked for one, it'll be painted on the side of the plane. In the meantime, you can print out a paper airplane mock-up to play with.

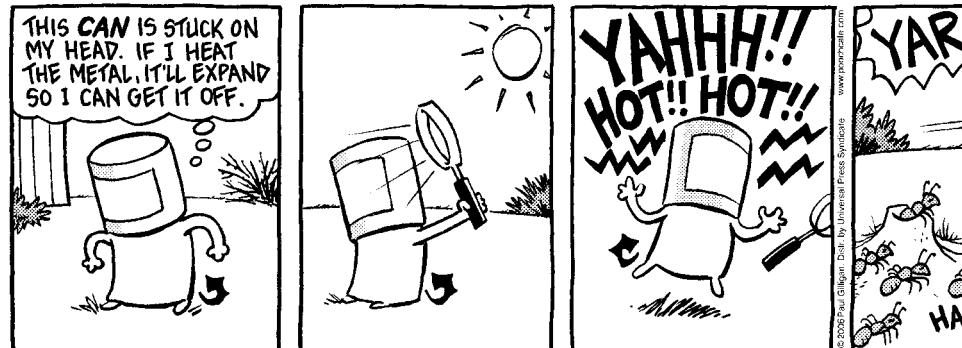
TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE: Newly selected Gallaudet President Robert Davila discusses his plans as the head of the school at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com

LOOK out

Bizarro | Dan Piraro



Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Cornered | Mike Baldwin



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Avoid doing anything that might turn someone against you. There's no accounting for other people's moods, so you must use extra care.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may come up against an opponent whose only weapon against you is self-confidence and faith. This may prove a battle you choose not to fight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Trust in those who have been right beside you from the beginning. It may feel as though you're on your own, but you're certainly not alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) It's a good day for returns and exchanges of all sorts — but when it comes to friendships, you're not going to want to make any changes.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You don't necessarily want to remember all the details of a past episode, but what you do remember will serve to inspire you now and in the future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You should be

able to reap some unexpected gains by reliving certain periods from your past — but be sure to maintain a sense of humor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You'll receive a hint that can lead you to an important personal discovery. Take care you don't give away all your secrets prematurely.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't hesitate to go along with the crowd — at least for a time. You're building up to something that should be quite memorable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You can increase your own potential and also serve to help someone else live up to his or her own potential. Don't hide from a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may feel as though someone is playing games with you, but you can learn a great deal about doing things the roundabout way as a result.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Pressure is building at this time, but you should be able to deal with it quite well, provided you remember what your primary goal really is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You'll have a chance to make more money — but you'll also have to make the decision to spend that money as wisely as possible.

Letters

Kucinich the New McGovern

TUESDAY'S EXPRESS HEADLINE

"Kucinich Plans 2008 Bid" evoked tragic memories of Sen. George McGovern's failed attempt at the presidency in 1972 against Richard Nixon. Back then, his very own party members would accuse him of being a "single-issue" candidate;

he lost by a landslide. McGovern's single issue was our immediate extraction from the killing fields of Vietnam. Kucinich demands the same in light of Iraq's death rate of over 100 per day, making the U.S. an international outrage. It was fitting then that McGovern achieved a large degree of poetic justice in view of how Vietnam, and now Iraq, was splitting the country.

—EDWARD ABRAMIC
Washington, D.C.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1799 The first president of the United States, George Washington, dies at his Mount Vernon home at age 67.

1911 Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his group become the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out an expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

1939 The Soviet Union is dropped from the League

of Nations.

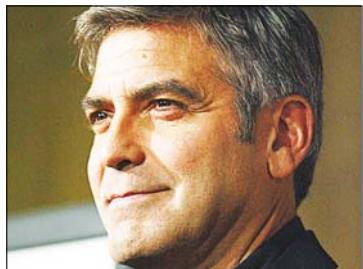
1946 The United Nations General Assembly votes to establish U.N. headquarters in New York.

1962 The U.S. space probe Mariner 2 approaches Venus, transmitting information about the planet.

1986 The experimental aircraft Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, takes off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first nonstop, non-refueled flight around the world.

LOOK out

People



Clooney looks out into a bright future.

POLITICS

George Acts All Presidential

GEORGE CLOONEY lobbied on Wednesday for Egypt's help in getting protection for victims of Darfur's increasing violence. The actor met with Gamal and Suzanne Mubarak — the son and wife of Egypt's president — and with the foreign minister in his campaign to bring relief to the war-torn region of western Sudan. (AP)

CHARITY

Bob Pledges Money to House African Elephant

BOB BARKER will pledge \$300,000 toward housing an elephant from the Los Angeles Zoo in an animal sanctuary. The pledge would match donations in support of sending Ruby, a 45-year-old African elephant, to a sanctuary in San Andreas in northern California, publicist Henri Bolinger said Tuesday. (AP)

BOB BARKER will pledge \$300,000 toward housing an elephant from the Los Angeles Zoo in an animal sanctuary.

The pledge would match donations in support of sending Ruby, a 45-year-old African elephant, to a sanctuary in San Andreas in northern California, publicist Henri Bolinger said Tuesday. (AP)



SUBJECTS

'Party Ethics' to Be Taught at Harvard

PARIS HILTON has taken it upon herself to defend Britney Spears from the onslaught of criticism that's followed their frequent nights out on the town. "Brit is her own person and she deals with her own things everyday," Hilton wrote on her MySpace page. "For people to call out her parenting skills on behalf of her partying ethics is appalling. Britney loves her kids to death, and I know for a fact that it truly hurts her when she sees these cruel things being written about her." (EXPRESS)

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LEADERS

Zahara The Brains Behind Brangelina

Which child rules the roost in the **ANGELINA JOLIE**-Brad Pitt family? "I bet if you asked Brad, he'd say **ZAHARA**," the actress tells People magazine in an interview posted on its Web site. "Mad is very smart, but he's



Zahara forces her subjects to carry her everywhere.

got a certain sense of calm. Zahara is possibly the funniest person I've ever met in my life.

So dramatic and creative and loud and charming," Jolie says. "She's definitely the biggest personality in the house." (AP)

**BABIES**
Heather Mills Not Invited to Christening

STELLA McCARTNEY has given birth to her second child, a girl. Bailey Linda Olwyn Willis was born Dec. 8 in London, weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces. McCartney, 35, and her husband, Alasdair Willis, 36, have a 22-month-old son, Miller. McCartney heads a fashion label. (AP)



We liked him more when he got into scrapes with Tobey McGuire.

MORALIZING
Environmentalist Celebrities Becoming More Annoying

LEONARDO DiCAPRIO knows global warming is a problem. That's why the actor posted a question on "Yahoo! Answers." "We can all be environmentalists," DiCaprio, 32, said. "Creating communities online that are interested in discussing and embracing smart, simple and serious solutions reminds us we can all take action." (AP)

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It's Electric

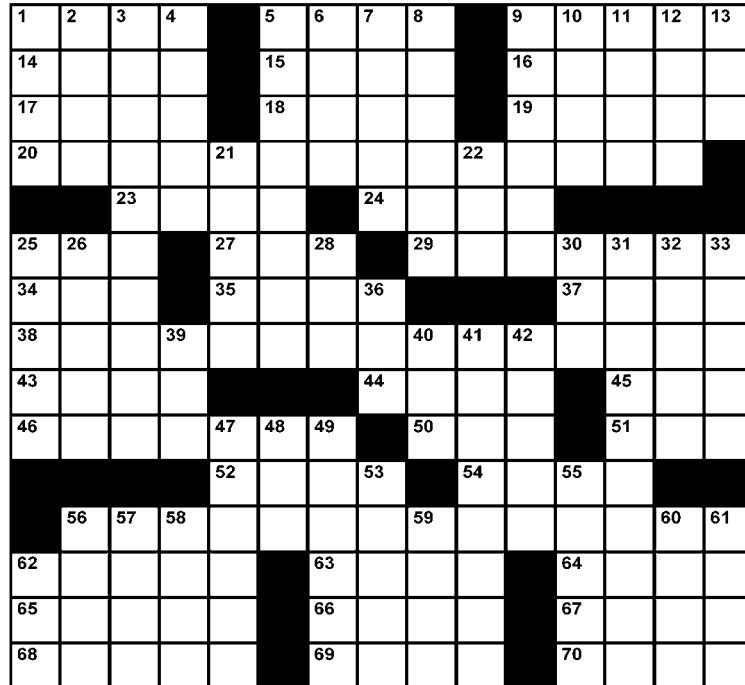
ACROSS

1 Like an academic point
5 Riot-subduing stuff
9 High above
14 Stalactite site
15 Johnny Cash's "___ Named Sue"
16 Mexican address?
17 One-named singer/actress
18 Stare open-mouthed
19 Type of coast or tower
20 What electricians discuss?
23 Fictional account
24 Dynasty established by Kublai Khan
25 Di-dah lead-in
27 It passes the buck
29 Layered dish
34 Lyric poem
35 At fruition
37 Faucet brand
38 How electricians pay?
43 Pope from 440 to 461
44 Sudden invasion
45 Show showers
46 1980s demographic group
50 Warm Mother's Day present?
51 Corp. big shot
52 Vintner's valley, perhaps

54 Rachel's sister
56 What the dancing electrician was?
62 Type of bean or butter
63 ___-Day vitamins
64 Actress Hatcher
65 Emulate Pavlov's dogs
66 Ceramist's oven
67 Name in a Salinger title
68 First word in an Austen title
69 Part of a trucker's rig
70 Relax with a good book

DOWN

1 LII x XXV
2 Pearl Harbor isle
3 Excessive
4 ___ firma
5 Type of attraction
6 Blind as ___
7 Insured's contribution
8 Beautiful sight to behold
9 Most people, really
10 His name may be on your behind
11 ___ about (approximately)
12 "Yes" voters
13 Make the effort
21 Moon of Jupiter
22 Transportation overseer, for short
25 Inferior
26 Parting remark
28 Letters on a



EDITED BY TIMOTHY PARKER

speeding ticket
30 Pacer maker
31 Chevre
32 Chutzpah
33 ___ forth (in addition)
36 Traditional piercing site
39 Place from which to shoot
40 Shea sound
41 New York's Rudolph
42 Borders
47 Get some oxygen, e.g.
48 Partner of "drink" and "be merry"
49 Startles
53 Long-running Broadway musical
55 Word before noon?
56 Folk knowledge
57 Something to click on
58 Sticky substances
59 Position of leadership
60 Memorable writer Bombeck
61 Needing an extra quarter, perhaps
62 Platter replacements

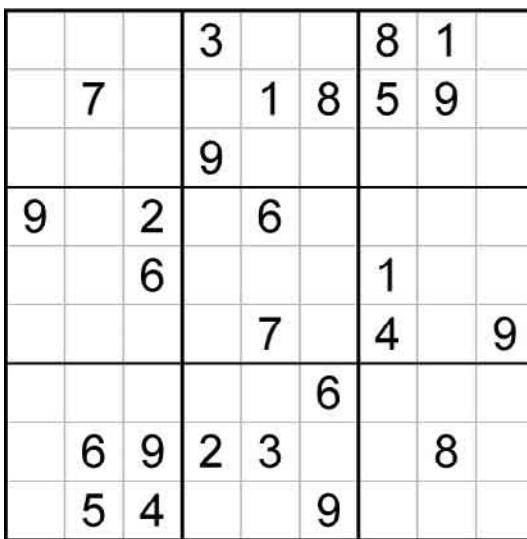
Yesterday's Solution

Sudoku

Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Sudoku?
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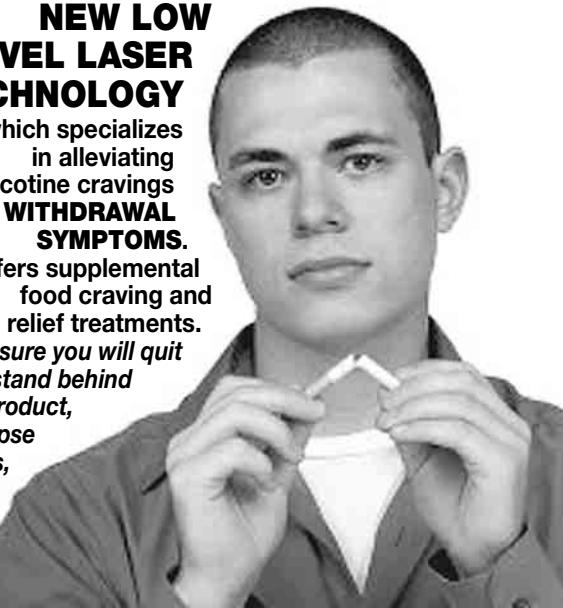
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* NAME: Sabrina Mandell
GIG: Co-founder of D.C.'s Happenstance Theater

FRESH FROM ITS success at this year's Capital Fringe Festival, Happenstance revives "Prufbox" at the Smithsonian American Art Museum for a single performance. The work combines theater, puppetry, performance art and T.S. Eliot's masterpiece "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" to explore romance, longing, nature and alienation in a mechanized world. Inspired by the chaotic modernism of Dada and by Joseph Cornell's exquisite, enigmatic shadowboxes (on display at the museum's "Navigating the Imagination" exhibit), the work features Mandell, Happenstance co-founder Mark Jaster and postmodern puppeteer Lindsay Abromaitis-Smith.

Where did you get the idea to take

T.S. Eliot's poem and literally put it in a box?

Some time ago, I wrote a show that I never produced called "The Box Ceremony"; it was basically a one-woman show. And when I met Mark, I showed him the piece and he was very interested in it. But it needed more of a story, and he has always loved the Eliot poem. So we read the poem and we realized that the two stories had huge similarities. We decided to kind of merge the two stories into "Prufbox."

How did you envision the staging?

In terms of the aesthetic, I'm all about visual theater — I'm into creating moving pictures, theatrically but low-tech. So, using the more traditional ways of doing that, I actually try to create it out of our bodies or puppets or different things.

It's like a human shadowbox, sur-



COLIN WINTERBOTTOM

SHADOWS OF THE PAST: Happenstance Theater explores love and hesitation.

rounded by shadowboxes.

Both Mark and I had a kind of relationship with Joseph Cornell's work, so there's actually a life-size shadowbox onstage. We are in it and we move in and out of it and the puppets are in it, as well.

So the puppets aren't there to infantilize the story?

No. Throughout the concept, we

knew that we wanted to have these visual objects moving around that would kind of animate. They're images, kind of blown-up etchings, not like traditional puppets. So we needed a third person to do that, to also kind of fill in and help facilitate the story. ... Lindsay does all of that stuff.

It's funny how modern that poem

"It really feels like you're in a Dada time-period warp."

and that period remain.

Yeah, you hear that in the music as well. We have some like Django Rheinhart and the Comedian Harmonists — it really feels like you're in a kind of Dada time-period warp. We're really heavily influenced by the Société Anonyme.

How familiar do people have to be with the poem to enjoy "Prufbox"?

They don't have to be familiar at all. We basically illustrate everything they need. The imagery is created, so it's pretty accessible.

ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

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Metaphysical Education

Magnus Wallin's animated bodies are mysteriously trapped

MUSEUMS | Sitting in the audience of a Magnus Wallin film is like walking into one of your own — or someone else's — strangest dreams. Highly symbolic and highly creepy, two of the Swedish artist's films will be playing continuously at the Hirshhorn Museum's Black Box theater beginning on Friday.

The computer-animated pieces "Anatomic Flop" (2003) and "Exercise Parade" (2001) last only about three minutes each, but each leaves a lasting impression with its haunting imagery and stark use of light and sound.

Each film creates a distinct and unsettling virtual world. "Anatomic



GAME ON: In "Exercise Parade," an anonymous figure faces enigmatic obstacles.

"Flop" takes place on a celestial race-track with athletes running down the track and out of the frame before being violently flung back

to the starting line by a mostly invisible force. "Exercise Parade" takes place in a creepy, industrial-looking hallway and centers on a mysterious

figure who dodges a giant glowing orb that barrels towards him.

Wallin tends to focus on the human body, a mix of the classical ideal of physical beauty with futuristic humanoid forms.

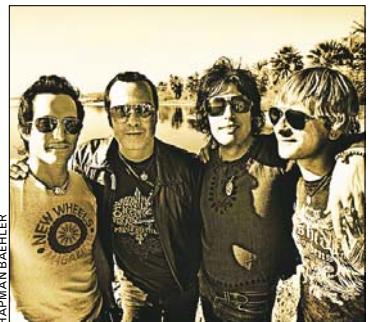
The Hirshhorn show is Wallin's first major museum exhibition in the United States, although he has shown throughout Europe. The Malmo, Sweden-based artist gained widespread fame through his exhibition at the 2001 Istanbul Biennale.

His early work used performance and installation techniques, although he has moved into the realm of film by collaborating with a team of animators. **DAN MILLER**

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SCANDINAVIAN SOUNDS: The six singers of Nordic Voices, above left, fuse church and choral music. Right, jazz avant-gardists make the music go Poing.



Northern Lights

Maja Ratkje, Poing and Nordic Voices sing down to D.C.

MUSIC | "I'm a little bit sick, but I can talk," said Maja Ratkje.

Chat, sure, but can the Norwegian extreme vocalist — known for making sounds that can mimic a dying dog or evoke the delicate coos of a lovebird — sing through an illness?

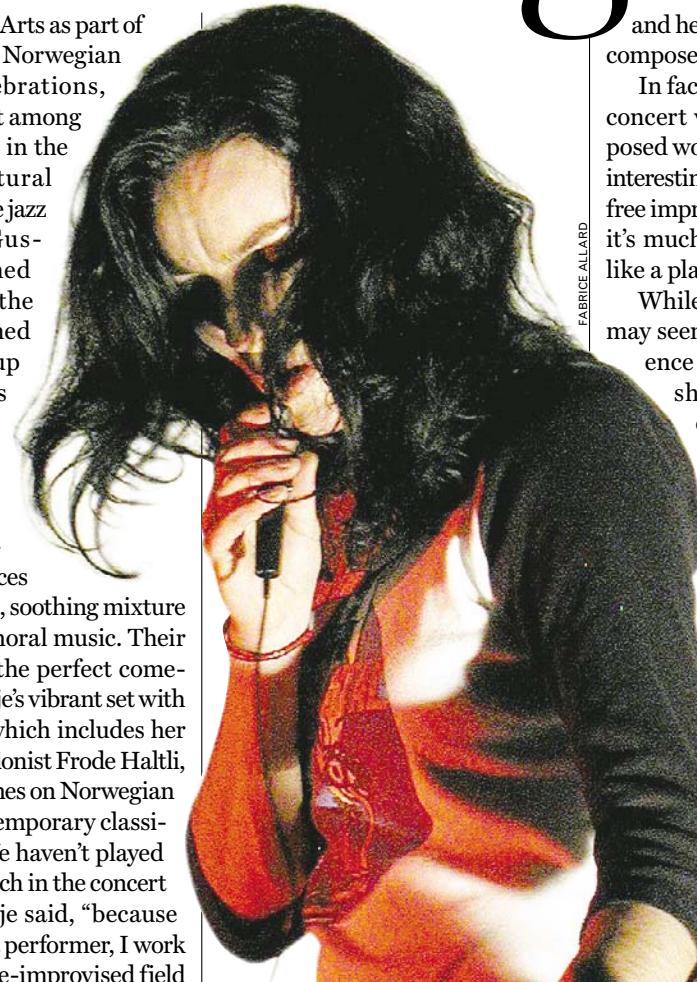
"It takes a lot of sickness to cancel a gig," Ratkje said, admitting that she could incorporate the sniffles and a sore throat into her act. "Because of the kind of voice practice I do, it's not idiomatic or classical singing. My role is to improvise, so I can adjust my voice to softer based on how I feel."

Ratkje's vibrant vocal fluctuations can make Björk sound like an "American Idol" candidate. "I like to use the limits of what is possible with the voice," Ratkje said, which includes whistles, growls, clicks and whisper-to-a-scream exhalations.

Performing in D.C. on Sunday afternoon at the National Museum

of Women in the Arts as part of the 10th annual Norwegian Christmas celebrations, Ratkje sticks out among the other artists in the monthlong cultural event: Meditative jazz pianist Tord Gustavsen performed last week, and the classically trained a cappella group Nordic Voices performs Sunday evening at the National Gallery of Art.

The six singers in Nordic Voices croon a gorgeous, soothing mixture of church and choral music. Their concert will be the perfect come-down from Ratkje's vibrant set with the Poing trio, which includes her husband, accordionist Frode Haltli, whose style touches on Norwegian folk music, contemporary classical and jazz. "We haven't played together that much in the concert situation," Ratkje said, "because when I work as a performer, I work mainly in the free-improvised field



and he's an expert in performing composed music."

In fact, Ratkje and Poing's D.C. concert will mostly feature composed works. "We have a very, very interesting set," she said. "When I do free improvisation with my groups, it's much more chaotic. It's more like a playground."

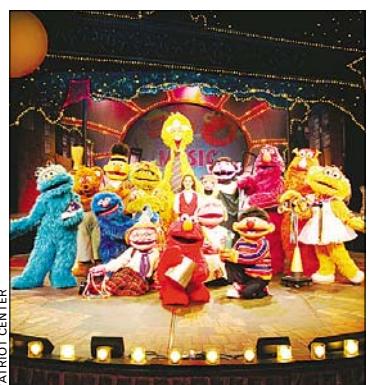
While Ratkje's avant-garde art may seem intimidating, the audience shouldn't be frightened, she said. "Poing are very charming musicians. They are very good at breaking up the stiffness that usually is part of contemporary classical music concerts." CHRISTOPHER PORTER (EXPRESS)

→ *National Museum of Women in the Arts*, 1250 New York Ave. NW; Sun., 2 p.m., free; 202-783-5000. (Metro Center)

→ *National Gallery of Art*, West Garden Court, 600 Constitution Ave. NW; Sun., 6 p.m., free; 202-842-6941. (Smithsonian)

Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



SESAME STREET LIVE

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1 Elmo, the Count, Cookie Monster, Big Bird, Bert & Ernie and other furry friends are getting the band back together. Rock on with the wee ones at this extremely colorful musical event. → *George Mason University, Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax*; through Sun., \$15-\$35; 703-993-3000, patriotcenter.com, sesamestreetlive.com.

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2 It's time for the annual Black Cat Rock 'n' Shop, so bust into your piggy bank and get ready to get down while you stock up on gifts for that music fan who thinks he's too cool for yule. → *Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW*; Sun., 8 p.m., free; 202-667-7960, blackcatdc.com. (U St.-Cardozo)

NATIONAL MENORAH

Get Lit

3 Forget the National Christmas Tree — it's just another hubcap-covered cone. The real action on the Mall this weekend is the lighting of the National Menorah, which kicks off the Festival of Lights with speeches, music and a blaze of illumination. → *The Ellipse, 1600 Constitution Ave.*



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Dancing Up a Storm

Choreographer Paul Taylor has plenty of ideas in motion

DANCE | Paul Taylor has been one of the bad boys of avant-garde dance for 50 years now — perhaps it's time to switch the label to "grand old man."

The choreographer and founder of New York's Paul Taylor Dance Company, which comes to the Kennedy Center for a three-performance run, combines ballet training with modern and contemporary dance execution to create a wide palette of works. They range from pure-dance pieces to playful divertissements to themed dances. Over the years, Taylor has returned to certain ideas — faith and its strictures and glories;

nature, playful and un-American history and human connection.

At 76, Taylor is busy creating new works and directing his company. "That's my job," he said by phone. "I like it." He controls the programs, which change throughout a season's tour, juggling a number of works in his head.

"There are like 17 dances in the rep right now," he said. "We try not to repeat things that we've done in places before. And then I try to balance a program — different kinds of things, different kinds of music from different periods."

The Kennedy Center program features four works, one from as far back as 1962 ("Aureole," with music by Handel) and one that's brand-



BATTLE ROYAL: Julie Tice and Michael Trusnovec fight the bad fight in Taylor's "war dance," "Banquet of Vultures."

him and seemingly under his control. It debuted in 2005, but Taylor maintains the piece isn't specific to the current military situation. "I suppose it will be seen that way," he said, "but I'm hoping it will seem a little more universal."

Taylor rounds out the program with the farcical take on Shakespeare, "Troilus and Cressida (Reduced)," and the wafting "Airs," a "very dancey" piece from 1978. Taken together, the four pieces offer a fairly representative glimpse into the long career of a master choreographer.

The man himself agrees — fifty-some years is a long time to spend hustling grants and ordering people around a stage.

"Each [piece] feels like it was made by a different person. You know, we do these revivals and I think, 'Who made that?'"

ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

→ *Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Sat., 2:30 & 8 p.m., \$32-\$50; 800-444-1324, kennedy-center.org. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)*

Horned Helmets & All

Sweden's Amon Amarth carries the spear for Viking metal

MUSIC | Grab your battle gear — Amon Amarth will play an opening set for Children of Bodom on Friday night at the 9:30 Club.

It's been almost a year since the Viking-themed metallers rocked the same venue, opening for the same band. Since then, Amon Amarth has released "With Oden on Our Side." Although the musical styling and lyrical subject matter covered in the album on songs such as "Prediction of Warfare," "Valhall Awaits Me" and "Runes to My Memory" are not new, the Swedish quintet sounds better than ever.

As one would expect from a group of Vikings, Amon Amarth's metal is harsh, simple and brutish on the surface. But repeat listens reveal nuances that set the band apart from its contemporaries. On "The Cry of the Black Birds," Amon Amarth manages to create varied sonic textures with overdriven gui-



APOLOGIES TO TOLKIEN: Middle-Earth inspires these rock 'n' roll warriors.

tars, bass and drums that other bands employing an arsenal of guitar effects, keyboards and acoustic guitars could only dream of.

Outsiders often pick on the band for naming itself after a mountain in J.R.R. Tolkien's fictional Middle-Earth and for the band's lyrics (self-evident, or at least easy to guess, from such song titles as "The Beheading of a King" and "The Arrival of the Finbul Winter"), but Amon Amarth's genuine love for — and knowledge of — the Norse

mythology they sing about is obvious, and the band is ultimately able to pull it off with fierce dignity.

When vocalist Johan Hegg growls about the "Fresh blood on our swords" over the pounding riffs of "Gods of War Arise," the listener is bound to get a little nervous.

GREGORY RE

→ *9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; with Children of Bodom, Gojira, Sanctity, Fri., 7 p.m. doors, \$20; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)*

LIVE POP | ONE-MAN BAND



GRUMPY PUPPY: Indie oddball Jim Noir has some beefs to pick — with the key of C ("Key of C"), technology ("Computer Song"), with you, pal ("My Patch"). This British multi-instrumentalist makes sunnily eccentric super-pop with its roots in '60s psychedelia and its heart in the right place — even when he's surly. He opens for Sean Lennon at the Birchmere on Sunday.

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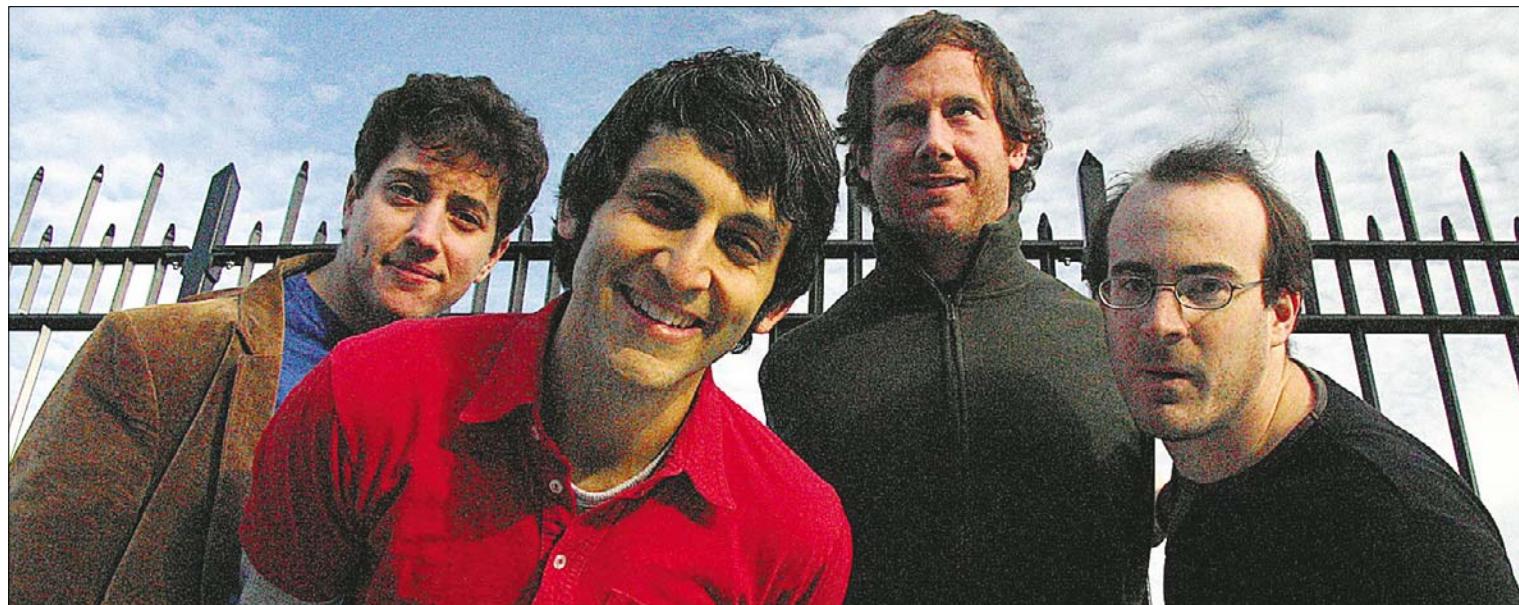
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who "forget it's fun to yell, or jump up and down or smile."

Thomson, who's known to flail his sax like a weapon, is joined by Ty Citerman on guitar, Eric Rockwin on upright bass and Paul Chuffo on drums. In Gutbucket, as in their hometown, one can hear a stew of jazz, Latin, Afro-Cuban, indie, punk, whatever. "In the van, occasionally someone will throw in a Monk or Mingus record," said Thomson. "But we listen to the same indie rock everyone listens to. When you use the word 'jazz,' what's implied in that is 'throwback.' That's not what we do."

What they do is synthesize something brand-new, for right now. "Nothing makes me happier than to stick a toe into all these different scenes," said Thomson. "The last track on 'Sludge Test' is a Messiaen cover. In clubs, we often don't announce that's a French composer who wrote that in a World War II prison camp. We just [friggin'] play it. It sounds weird, fun — there's a whole ton of rock influence to it as well. It's fun to drop that into a place it's not supposed to belong and have people love it."

→ *Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; Sat., 9:30 p.m., \$5; 703-525-8646. (Clarendon)*

EQUAL-OPPORTUNITY BLENDERS: The group produces tunes that borrow from pretty much everywhere: Jazz, punk and modern classical are just a few key influences.

Stew in a Gutbucket

New York eclectics toss it all in; just don't call them 'jazz fusion'

MUSIC | "I threw up a little bit inside," said Ken Thomson of Gutbucket, in response to some bone-

head who once compared the band to jazz-fusioners Weather Report. Gutbucket's high-octane explosion of sound and bodies does draw from jazz. And punk. And modern classical. But it's like saying Ornette Coleman is kinda like Kenny G.

In fact, Gutbucket is a lot clos-

er to the radical genre-lessness of fellow New Yorker John Zorn. The band has been added to Full Force: The New Rock Complexity, a festival curated by Zorn, who likes his bands heavy, heady and weird. It's the end of a year of touring that brings Gutbucket to Arlington

this Saturday.

"Sometimes we pretend we're part of the jazz scene," said Thomson. "But 'Sludge Test' was us deciding to make a rock record." That 2006 album, recorded at John Vanderslice's studio in San Francisco, is an invitation to audiences

Four-Legged Follies

'Pet Noir' tells the truth about cats, dogs and humans

PAGES | Ever wonder what would happen if you hoarded 250 cats in one house or stifled huge attack dogs in a small apartment? Or, say, one day you decided to nurse a stray cat — which happens to be a cougar — or to steal a couple koala bears to surprise your girlfriend with?

If your imagination travels this far, then enter the bizarre world of editor Shannon O'Leary's "Pet Noir: An Illustrated Anthology of Strange but True Pet Crime Stories," and find out exactly what happened in these unusual yet actual cases of crimes against or involving animals.



ANIMAL INSTINCTS: People come off much worse than beasts do in "Pet Noir."

"Pet Noir" was originally conceived by comics author and illustrator O'Leary — who may have become true-crime obsessed herself after having her home ransacked, her car stolen and her face punched

by a complete stranger all within the same year — as an exploration of the media's sensationalizing of true crime stories.

But once in the hands of her pet-loving associates in the comics com-

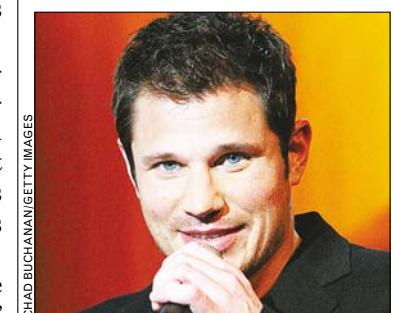
munity, "Pet Noir" morphed into an anthology about human folly.

"I was really moved that my original idea could be taken and turned into something that was bigger than me," said O'Leary.

Still, the disturbingly entertaining anthology is not a straightforward condemnation of animal abuse. And the dark, ironic effect innate to the noir genre makes for some downright hilarious stories.

"We're not trying to shove answers down anyone's throat," said O'Leary. "We just want to make people aware that these are beings and we have to be responsible with our relationships with animals."

And thanks to "Pet Noir," you don't have to come face-to-face with a cougar to make this a lesson well learned. DARONA WILLIAMS (EXPRESS)



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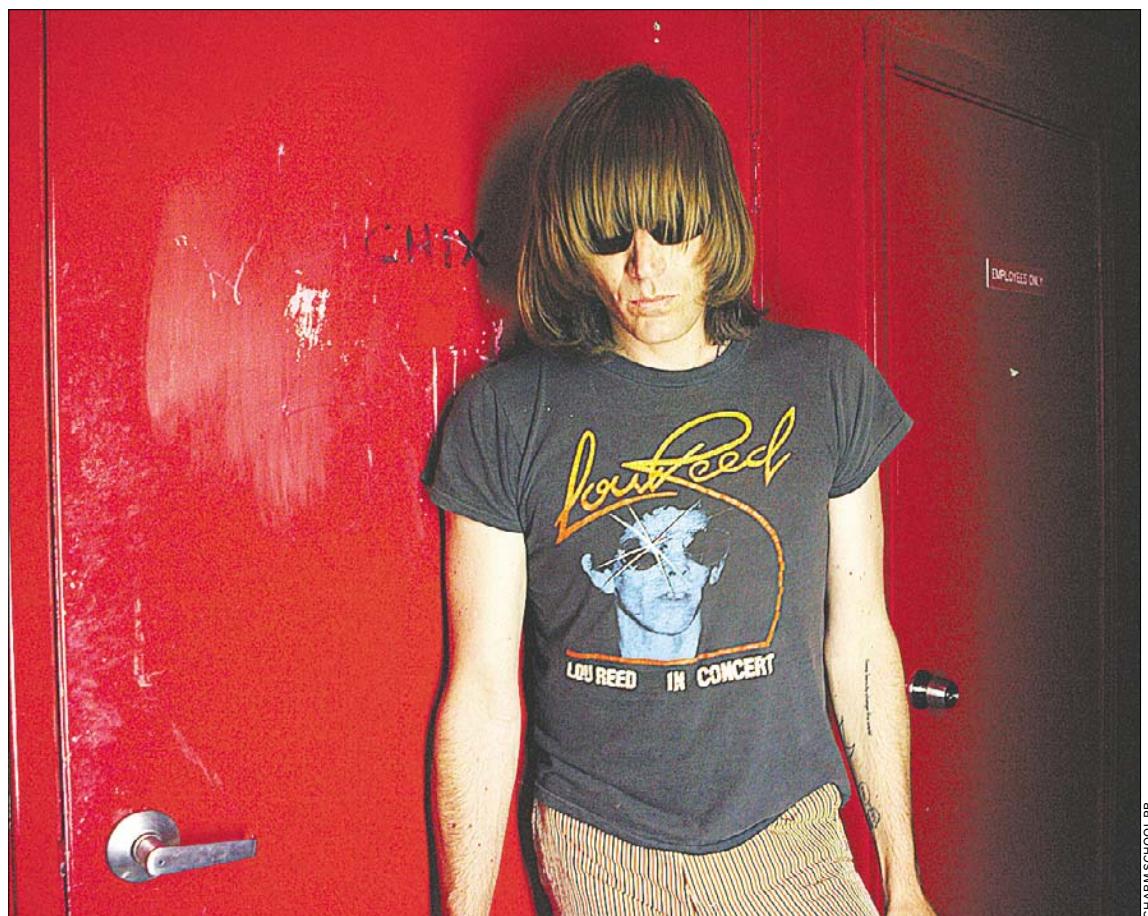
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GOLDEN BOY: Lemonheads frontman Evan Dando never crashed and burned as fans predicted. Still, he could use a haircut.

Cheating Fate

Ten years later, the Lemonheads take another crack at it

MUSIC | Back in 1992, the high-water mark of alternative rock, Evan Dando was voted the Boy Most Likely To. Most likely to marry a model, most likely to overdose, most likely to end up a stubble-chinned martyr on the cover of *Spin*. He looked cuter than Kurt Cobain in a dress, but it wouldn't have taken much of a gambler to bet Kurt would outlive him.

Dando beat the odds (though he did marry that model), and now, a decade after their last studio LP, the Lemonheads are starting over. They've got a knack for it. Their own press materials estimate roughly two dozen members over the years — not bad for a trio. As for the rhythm section that anchored the self-titled September release (Descendents and All alumni Karl Alvarez and Bill Stevenson), scheduling conflicts inter-

“If we didn’t play [the old songs], yeah, they’d be yelling them out and stuff. We play ‘em before anyone says anything.”

vened, so new guys will be playing at the Black Cat on Thursday.

“Vess Ruhtenberg and Devon Ashley — they were my first choice of replacements for Bill and Karl,” Dando said. “They do a good job. They do a really good job with the older stuff, too. It’s more of a big-picture thing. We do, like, maybe six songs off the new record and delve pretty heavily into the back catalog.”

With melodic, fuzz-glazed modern-rock staples like “Into Your Arms” and “It’s a Shame about Ray”

in his songbook, Dando knows he can’t hold back. “If we didn’t play them, yeah, they’d be yelling them out and stuff. We play ‘em before anyone says anything.”

Just don’t ask for the once-ubiquitous cover of “Mrs. Robinson,” which the band played only once, throwing it together in three hours at the behest of Atlantic Records and “to the wrath of Paul Simon,” Dando recalled. “He said it was really blasphemous. That appeals to my sense of his self-importance.”

Besides, Dando wants to leave time for newly minted classics like the cryptically compassionate “Black Gown” and the openly aching “Become the Enemy.” Not to mention Velvet Underground-inspired openers Vietnam. “They’re one of the main reasons to come down to the show,” Dando said. “I love the band.” **GLENN DIXON**

→ *Black Cat*, 1811 14th St. NW; with *Hymns*, *Vietnam*, Thu., 8 p.m., \$17; 800-551-7328. (U St.-Cardozo)

Morgan Heritage: Rockaz

MUSIC | The national motto of Jamaica is “Out of many, one people.” Singer Delroy Morgan could flip it a bit and say, “Out of one person, many people.” That’s because the Jamaican crooner has 30 children. Five of his kids comprise the spiritual and political roots-reggae band Morgan Heritage, which celebrates the release of its latest CD, “Live: Another Rockaz Moment,” with a concert at Crossroads on Friday.

Though Delroy’s brood might seem larger than one man could handle, Morgan Heritage percussionist and vocalist Memmalate “Mr. Mojo” Morgan said, “I have to give thanks to our father for bringing us all together, because all 30 kids weren’t from one mother. It was a blessing that he chose the right one to make his wife, and they embraced all his kids who were from other women, and it gave us the opportunity to grow up together and know all our brothers and sisters.”

The family grew up in Springfield, Mass., but Delroy moved the crew back to Jamaica 11 years ago. It’s not easy being a Rastafarian in



FAMILY AFFAIR: Roots-reggae band Morgan Heritage features five siblings.

Jamaica; it’s even harder in New England. “We got the wisecracks: ‘Jamaican booty-scratcher, go back on your banana boat.’ But it’s the fight; it’s the cross we decided to bear as Rastafarians.”

The Morgan Heritage collective, which includes brothers Mojo, Gramps, Jahpetes and Lukes along with sister Una, harness their genetic talents to make reggae music with a sharper-than-normal edge — so much so that the band has toured with the punky Warped Tour twice. Said Mojo: “Rockaz, the way we spell it, means reggae music that rocks, simply put.”

CHRISTOPHER PORTER (EXPRESS)

→ *Crossroads*, 4103 Baltimore Ave., Bladensburg, Md.; Fri., 8 p.m. doors, \$15-\$25; 301-927-1056.

OUT & ABOUT | HAPPY HOLIDAZE



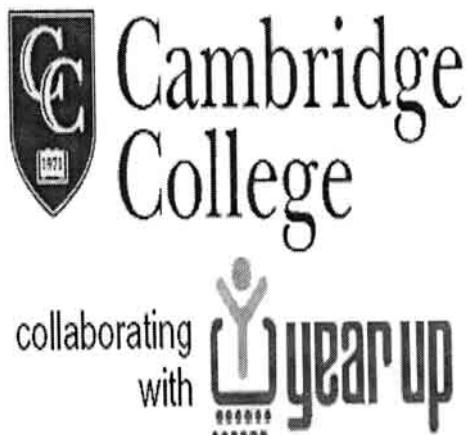
TED D'OTTAVIO

WHAT HAS CLAWS AND DJS? Lobster Boy and his crew of fallen women, con men and cheap tricks take over Chief Ike’s Mambo Room on Saturday. Nasty Canasta, above, cameos, while fire-eating elves, bodacious babes, fantastic freaks and reindeer games dazzle revelers and Scrooges alike. 1725 Columbia Road NW; Sat., 8 p.m., \$15; lobsterboy.net.

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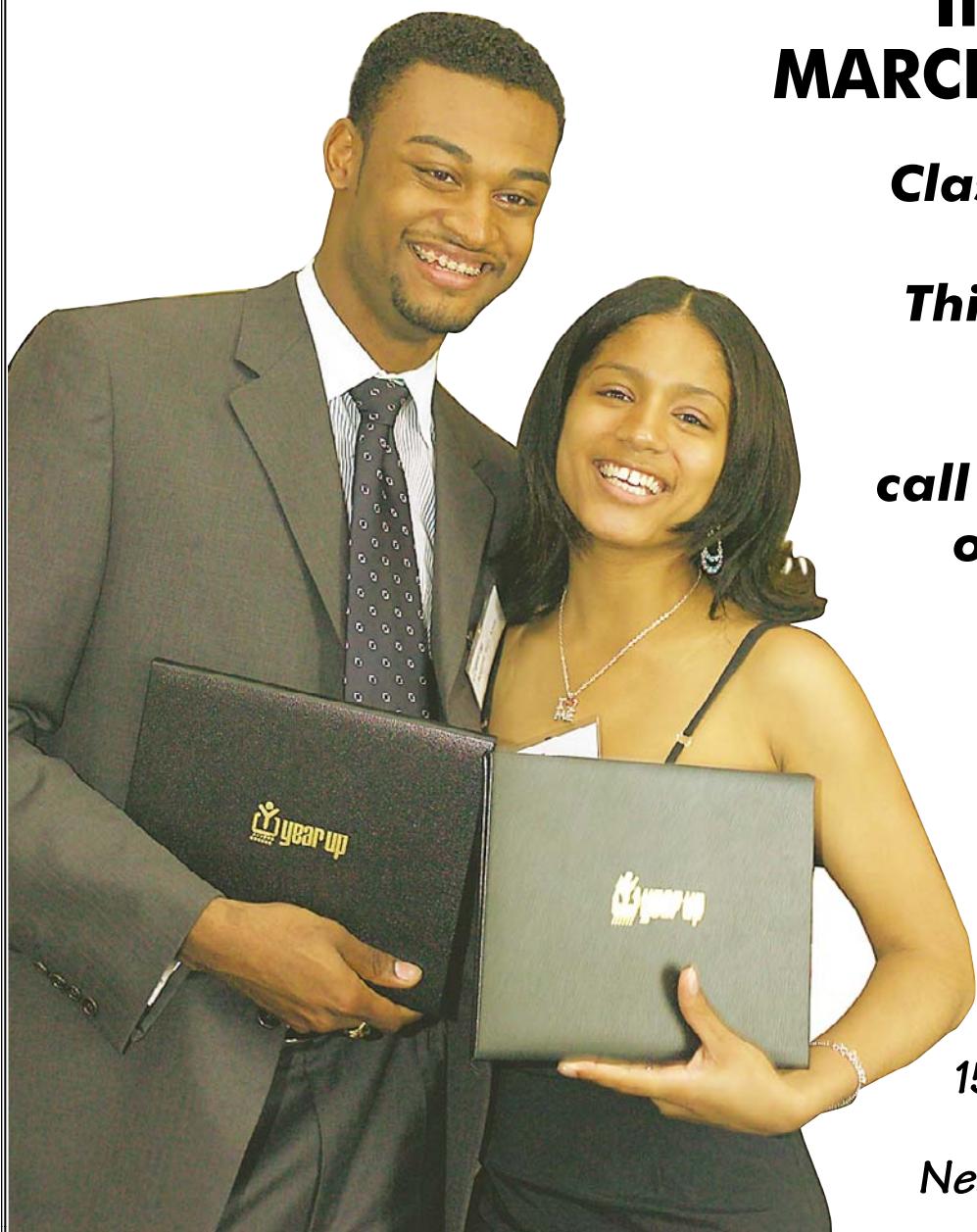
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Noir in the Dark

The Library of Congress unearths some tough film gems

FILM | Is it possible to get noired out?

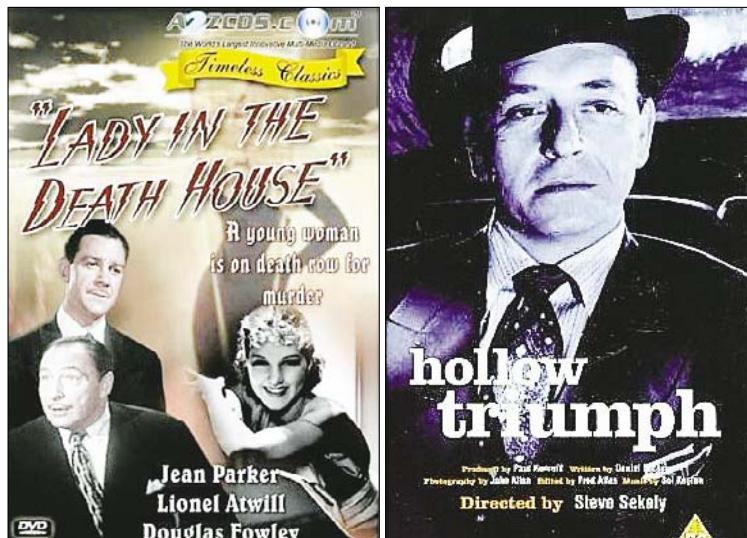
If you've been hitting the AFI Silver all week, you might be tempted to say you've had your fill of raking shadows, high-collared trench coats, rain-slicked streets and hotel signs that wink their welcome through partly drawn Venetian blinds.

But if you frequent a little dive called Turner Classic Movies, you might be holding out for something a little more esoteric than endless re-airings of "Mildred Pierce."

In that case, you should call the Mary Pickford, and fast, buster. The Library of Congress' small theater will hold only so many crime-drama fans who thought Paul Henreid was just fine as the noble Victor Laszlo in "Casablanca" but who will love him in 1948's "Hollow Triumph."

Henreid produced the flick, and he also starred in the double role of a brainy, desperate hood and the aloof psychiatrist whose identity he steals via a little home-brewed plastic surgery.

If the movie, also known as "The Scar," is a true gem of film noir, the



BLACK, WHITE, EXISTENTIAL: Two very different noir rarities screen on Friday at the Library of Congress' "Shades of Noir" film series, which ends this weekend.

B part of Friday evening's "Shades of Noir" double feature, 1944's "Lady in the Death House," is a lump of coal in your silk stockings.

Somewhere in the setup — a scientist specializing in post-death retrievals moonlights as the state executioner, in which capacity he'll be required to throw the switch on his framed-up lady love — lies a real coker of a tale.

Instead, we get a subpar "Perry Mason" episode. Then again, you may be so dazzled by the mind games of "Hollow Triumph" that

you no longer care.

The kicker? Both pictures were directed by Steve Sekely. Perhaps it was Henreid's guiding hand or four more years of experience that accounts for the leap in quality from "Death House" to "Triumph." Or maybe PRC Pictures handed Sekely the stuff that dogs are made of. **GLENN DIXON**

→ *Library of Congress, Mary Pickford Theater, 101 Independence Ave. SE; Fri., 6:30 p.m., free; 202-707-5677. (Capitol South)*

GALLERIES | GROWTH INDUSTRY



THE SECRET LIFE OF PLANTS: Robert Creamer's extraordinary photographs of plant life in the process of entropy render the natural world as something almost unrecognizable. "Transitions," an exhibit of his pictures of plants in and on their way out of bloom, is on display at the National Museum of Natural History through June of next year.

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Young & Old Love

Peter O'Toole falls for a great script and a pretty girl in 'Venus'

HEARTBURN | Peter O'Toole is rhapsodizing about falling in love, as he does in "Venus," which opens in D.C. early next year.

"Within seconds, it's as though these two have known each other for 25, 30 years. ... If it is a pretty girl, so much the more enchanting." He gives an old roue laugh. "But that is the way it is, I find. And this was written on a piece of paper" — the script for "Venus" — "and I

thought, 'Hello.'

This is his first leading role in 20 years. Despite seven Academy Award nominations, the last for "My Favorite Year" in 1982, O'Toole is not a recognizable figure for younger moviegoers. He sparred with Richard Burton in "Becket"; he played opposite Katharine Hepburn in "The Lion in Winter." As T.E. Lawrence, aka Lawrence of Arabia, he rode a camel across the desert for David Lean.

"Venus" tells of an aging journeyman actor who spends his days cavorting with his best chum, another aging journeyman actor (Leslie



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

GENERATION GAP: O'Toole with Jodie Whittaker in the bittersweet "Venus."

Phillips) and playing stiffs in hospital dramas, until he unexpectedly falls for his friend's niece, a tarty, angry, lost young woman, Jessie, played by newcomer Jodie Whittaker. "It's about a man continuing a hopeless passion for a woman he's too old to fulfill. He's almost enjoying a memory of what he was once capable of," explained screenwriter Hanif Kureishi. "It's a sad film because he has so much sexual desire, but it's rather cheering because he's still going."

Directed by Roger Michell, the film catapults O'Toole from the ether of old-world Hollywood into the gritty domain of modern-day London, from the grand tradition of acting to the current vogue for naturalism.

While some might want to see parallels between his "Venus" character, Maurice, and himself, O'Toole insists there are none. What he doesn't deign to say is that he, unlike his character, is and was a movie star.

RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Take 10

THE WASHINGTON POST'S FILM CRITICS TACKLE THIS WEEK'S BOX-OFFICE TOP 10

1 Apocalypto

Mel Gibson may not be a deep thinker, but he's a heck of a storyteller. The thriller "Apocalypto" is something entirely unexpected — a sinewy, taut poem of action.

STEPHEN HUNTER

2 The Holiday

In the annals of generic people-standing-around-talking movies, "The Holiday" achieves a new low. This overproduced romantic comedy doesn't even qualify as fluff; it's plastic. ANN HORNADAY

3 Happy Feet

Anyone watching this computer-animated flick about an adorable tap-dancing penguin named Mumble is going to flip. DESSON THOMSON

4 Casino Royale

Reinventing James Bond as a kind of Navy SEAL with an attitude problem, this film turns out to be cracking good entertainment and a fresh start for this well-worn franchise. STEPHEN HUNTER



PERIOD PIECE: Mel Gibson's "Apocalypto" takes the thriller way back in time.

Indies & Arties

Holiday Cheer

AFI juggles a number of excellent festivals — "1940s Film Noir," "Francis Ford Coppola Redux," "Judy Garland Sings!" — and throws in some celluloid seasonal cheer this month with "Holiday Classics," running through Dec. 25. This weekend, catch the underrated "Muppet Christmas Carol" and "It's a Wonderful Life," once ubiquitous but now as rare as toy trains under the tree.

→ *AFI Silver, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; through Dec. 25; 301-495-6700. (Silver Spring)*



Lillian Gish in the 1926 "Scarlet Letter."

provides live piano accompaniment for all films.

→ *National Gallery of Art, 600 Constitution Ave. NW; through Dec. 31, free; 202-842-6799. (Archives-Navy Memorial)*

Haux, Haux, Haux!

La Maison Française presents a loopy double feature of holiday-themed films from France. "Les Bronzés" is a 1978 film about vacationers in Africa; the hit "Le Père Noël est une ordure" takes a farcical look at a lonelyhearts hotline on Christmas Eve.

→ *Maison Française, 4101 Reservoir Road NW; Thu., 6:30 p.m., \$5 for one film, \$8 for both with reservations, 202-944-6091, la-maison-francaise.org*

5 Blood Diamond

Pounding action, pulse-quickenning adventure and of-the-moment politics animate this mostly great thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio. ANN HORNADAY

6 Unaccompanied Minors

A sort of junior-league version of "The Breakfast Club," this comedy mistakes creative innocuousness for family-friendliness. DESSON THOMSON

7 Deja Vu

ATF agent Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) goes back in time to unravel a crime. The plot is cockamamie, and the depictions of a terrorist attack offensive. DESSON THOMSON

8 The Nativity Story

To its credit, this film puts the virgin birth in its proper context. But it's a drab exercise in glum piety, slumping where it should soar.

ANN HORNADAY

9 Deck the Halls

This laugh-free comedy is about two suburbanites who battle over who'll celebrate with the most joyless, mega-wattage methods. STEPHEN HUNTER

10 The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause

This sequel, which re-stars Tim Allen and 40 pounds of phony belly, has an almost criminal lack of invention or charm. STEPHEN HUNTER

Entertainment | WeekendPass

LIVE SOLO JAMS | FREDERICKSBURG'S FINEST



C. TAYLOR GROTHERS

IN THE LOOP: "One-man jam band" Keller Williams can evoke a whole field full of twirling tie-dye with a little help from technology. The acoustic guitarist, percussionist and singer-songwriter, coming to the 9:30 Club on Saturday, is known for his irreverent and optimistic lyrics and for his association with other trance-rockers, including Umphrey's McGee.

The Scene

Sound

→ THURSDAY

Apex: College Night with DJ Randy White, VJ Steve Rosa, 9 p.m., \$5, free with college ID.

Birchmere: Kelly Willis & Bruce Robinson Holiday Show, Seth Walker, 7:30 p.m., \$25.

Black Cat: The Lemonheads, Vietnam, Hymns, 8 p.m., \$17.

Blues Alley: Stacy Kent, 8 & 10 p.m., \$27.50.

Bohemian Caverns: So Fired Up Concert Series (DJs Shayla Shay and Soyo spin hip-hop, reggae and R&B), 8 p.m., \$5.

Chick Hall's Surf Club: Hillbilly Jazz, 8 Ball, 8 p.m., free.

Crossroads: Get Twisted Thursdays, 10 p.m., free.

DC9: Angela Desveaux, Revival, the Starlitchens, 9 p.m., \$8.

Five: Static Age: DJs Steve EP, Stereo Faith, Killa K., Krasty McNasty, 9 p.m., \$8 (free before 10 p.m.).

Iota: Kelly Joe Phelps, Natalia Gunderman, 9 p.m., \$15.

Jammin' Java: Johnny A, David McMillin, 8 p.m., \$15.

Kennedy Center: National Symphony Orchestra (Leonard Slatkin, Conductor and Andre Watts, piano) performs Saint Saens, 7 p.m., \$20-\$80.

Love: College Night, free before 11:30 p.m. if over 21, Latin, hip-hop, international, top 40.

Mirrors: DJ Divine, 9 p.m., ladies free, gentlemen \$10 (attire must be fly).

Platinum: DJs QicSilver, Smokey Joe & José, free with pass from platinumclubdc.com, \$15 after 11 p.m.

State Theatre: Sister Hazel, 8:30 p.m., \$22.

Strathmore: A Viennese Christmas — the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra and Soloists, 7 p.m., \$18-48.

Twins Jazz: Minor Thoughts Quintet, 8 p.m., \$10-\$30.

U.S. Botanical Garden: Virginia Ham Barbershop Quartet, 5 p.m., free.

Warehouse Next Door: Time of the Wolf, Tides, Giant, 9:30 p.m., \$7.

Zanzibar: Familiar Faces, 8 p.m., \$15.

→ FRIDAY

Apex: DJ Tony Ruiz, VJ Mark Hawkins, karaoke, 9 p.m., \$8.

Birchmere: Saffire: the Uppity Blues Woman, 7:30 p.m., \$29.50.

Black Cat: New Order vs. Duran Duran Dance Party, with DJs Steve EP, Killa K., Krasty McNasty, 9:30 p.m., \$9. Right

Round with DJ Lil' e, 9:30 p.m., \$6 (backstage).

Blues Alley: Stacy Kent, 8 & 10 p.m., \$27.50.

Bohemian Caverns: Young Lions, 9 p.m., \$10.

Chick Hall's Surf Club: D.C. Blues Society Holiday Party, featuring David Cole, \$10.

Crossroads: Morgan Heritage, 8 p.m., \$15-\$25.

DC9: Liberation Dance Party, 9 p.m., \$5.

Five: Kream Dip with DJ Hanik, 9 p.m., \$10.

Folger Shakespeare Library: The Folger Consort "celebrates 'Christmas at the court of Henry VIII,'" traditional ballads and carols including, but not limited to, "Greensleeves," 8 p.m., \$40.

George Mason University: "An Nollaig — An Irish Christmas," with fiddle champion Eileen Ivers, 8 p.m., \$21-\$42 (tickets are half-price for those under 12). Ticket includes discussion with musicians before the show.

Iota: Last Train Home, Jen Gunderman, 9 p.m., \$13.

Jammin' Java: Nothin' Fancy Bluegrass, 7 p.m., \$15. Fighting Gravity, Saturn Down (CD Release), 9:30 p.m., \$15.

Jaxx: Beautiful Illusions presents: Rites of Ash, Heretics in the Lab, Danger Operator, Demas the Thief, DJ Solaris, 7:30 p.m., \$7.

Kennedy Center: National Symphony Orchestra (Leonard Slatkin, conductor, Krasty McNasty, 9:30 p.m., \$9. Right

Continued on E20

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Entertainment

The Scene

Continued from E17

and Andre Watts, piano), performs Saint Saens, 7 p.m., \$20-\$80.

Love: Raheem DeVaughn, 8 p.m., \$20.

Mirrors: The Lissen Band (three sets), 7 p.m., ladies free before 9 p.m., \$15 (ladies), \$20 (gentlemen).

9:30 Club: Children of Bodom, Amon Amarth, Gojira, Sanctity, 7 p.m., \$20.

Platinum: College Fridays, free with pass from platinumclubdc.com, \$15 after 11 p.m.

The Red & the Black: Shwa, Derek James, Taylor Davis, Todd Martin, 9:30 p.m., \$8.

Rock and Roll Hotel: Monster Maker (featuring Sharkey and C-Rayz Walz), 9 p.m., \$10.

Smithsonian Jazz Cafe: Buck Hill Quartet (saxophone), 6 p.m., \$10.

Strathmore: Salsa and Swing Night with Kevin Fox, 7 p.m., \$25.

The State Theater: The Legwarmers, 9 p.m., \$14.

Twins Jazz: Raul Mascarenhas and Trio, 9 & 11 p.m., \$15.

Warehouse Next Door: Tatsuya Nakatani, 7:30 p.m., \$7. Garland of Hours, Fern Knight, Ilya Monosov, 10 p.m., \$7.

Washington National Cathedral: Cathedral Choral Society presents "the Joy of Christmas," 7:30 p.m., \$20-\$65.

Zanzibar: International Happy Hour, Majic 102.3 Happy Hour, 5 p.m., \$20 after 8 p.m.

→ SATURDAY

Apex: Apex Follies: Drag show hosted by Kristina Kelly, DJ Mark Hawkins, VJ Steve Rosa, 9 p.m., \$8.

Birchmere: Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, 7:30 p.m., \$35.

Black Cat: Forward Russia!, Snowden, Middle Distance Runner, 9 p.m., \$10. Bliss with DJ Will Eastman, 9 p.m., \$6 (backstage).

Blues Alley: Stacy Kent, 8 & 10 p.m., \$27.50.

Bohemian Caverns: Michael Thomas, 9 p.m., \$10.

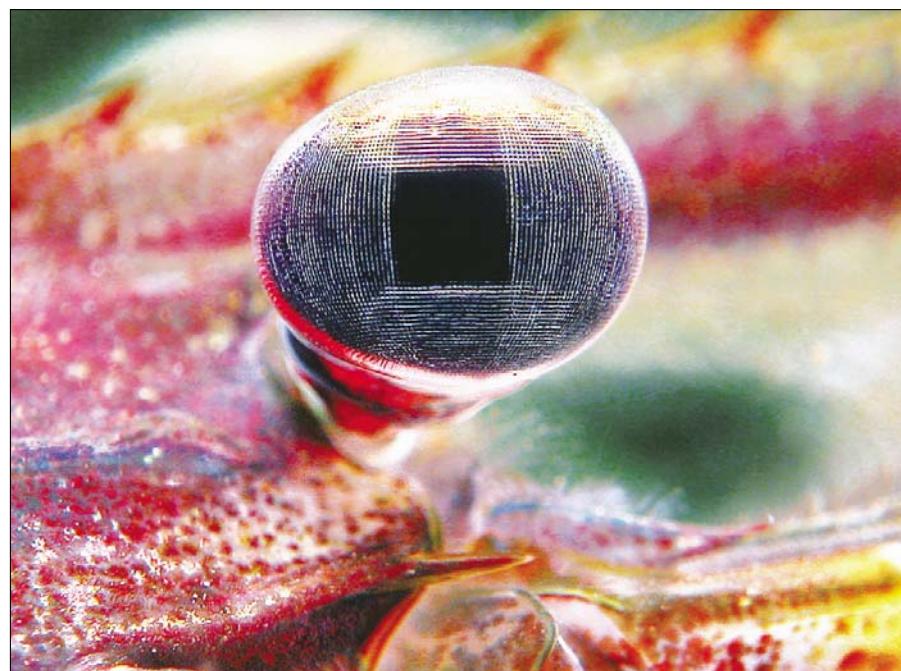
Chick Hall's Surf Club: Wayne Brown & 2nd Conspiracy, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

Crossroads: DJs Super Slice & Celo, Bobby's Music Machine, 10 p.m., \$15 before 11 p.m., \$20 after (ladies free with pass from crossroadsclub.com).

DC9: Sam Champion, Mancino, Brainfang, ADHD, 9 p.m., \$8.

Five: Luke Soloman and DJ Diz, 9 p.m., \$10.

Folger Shakespeare Library: The Folger Consort celebrates "Christmas at the court of Henry VIII," by performing traditional ballads and carols including, but not limited to, "Greensleeves," 5 & 8 p.m., \$40.



ALEX H. GRIMAN

Most Intimate Photography

→ IT ISN'T OFTEN WE see a headline like "Mouse Colon Takes Top Honors"; then again, the Nikon Small World photomicrograph competition isn't your ordinary art contest. Art, science, technology and nature meet in the winning images of tiny things — the pupil of a freshwater shrimp, left, two m-plane sapphire substrates, anterior spiracles of a fruit fly larva — shot very close-up. The National Academy of Sciences, which co-sponsored the competition, exhibits the winners, including the transcendent blue mouse colon, through Dec. 20 as part of the photos' triumphant national tour. *Keck Center, 500 5th St. NW; free by appointment only; 202-334-2436, nationalacademies.org/arts.*

ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

Galaxy Hut: Mosquito Death Squadron, Gutbucket, 9:30 p.m., \$5.

George Mason University: The Canadian Brass (quintet) "lights up holiday spirits" with carols, classics, jazz, pop, etc., 8 p.m., \$25-\$50 (tickets are half-price for those under 12). Ticket includes discussion with musicians before the show.

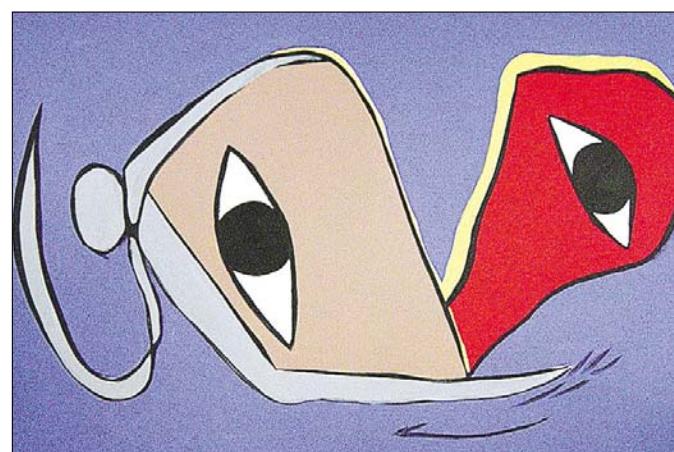
Iota: Last Train Home, Jen Gunderman, 9 p.m., \$10.

Jammin' Java: Dog Waggers "Wassailing With the Waggers," 7 p.m., \$10. BOB, Politicks, Havok in Hollywood, 9:30 p.m., \$10. 7 p.m., \$15. One Horse Town, 9 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance).

Jaxx: Napalm Death, A Life Once Lost, Dead to Fall, Animosity, Amicus, Screwtape, 6 p.m., \$20, 7:30 p.m., \$17 (\$14 in advance).

Kennedy Center: The Washington Chorus: "Music for Christmas," 2 p.m., \$19-\$56 WPAS & Family Christmas Concerts,

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ZAHI KHAMIS

THE MOST COMPLICATED GROUND IN THE WORLD: A dozen artists look at a storied but very real city in the group show "Jerusalem: Between Visions and Realities" at, of all places, the Jerusalem Fund Gallery. Paintings, sculpture and installations all approach the magic, myth and truth of the city and every artist brings a unique point of view to this fecund subject.

4 p.m., \$20-\$30. National Symphony Orchestra (Leonard Slatkin, Conductor and Andre Watts, piano) performs Saint Saens, 7 p.m., \$20-\$80.

Lime Club: Rare Essence, 9 p.m., \$10-\$25 (ladies free before midnight with Internet pass).

Love: Fredricks of Hollywood, hip-hop, Spanish, house, free with pass from lovethelclub.com. A Moe & Fito Exclusive, 9 p.m., \$10.

9:30 Club: Keller Williams, 7 p.m., \$25. Blowoff: Bob Mould and Richard Morel, 11:30 p.m., \$12.

Platinum: Hip-hop, reggaeton, club mix, free with pass from platinumclubdc.com

The Red & the Black: Porsches on the Autobahn, Hello Tokyo, 9:30 p.m., \$8.

Rock and Roll Hotel: DJ set by the Rapture's Mattie B. Safer, Enon, DJ Ca\$hy, free before 10 p.m., \$10.

State Theatre: Bob Schneider, Samantha

Continued on E24

venues

Apex: 415 22nd St. NW; 202-296-0505.

Birchmere Music Hall: 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 703-549-7500.

Black Cat: 1811 14th St. NW; 202-667-7960.

Blues Alley: 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-337-4141.

Bohemian Caverns: 2001 11th St. NW; 202-299-0801.

Chick Hall's Surf Club: 4711 Kenilworth Ave., Bladensburg, Md.; 301-927-6310.

Crossroads: 4103 Baltimore Ave., Bladensburg, Md.; 301-927-1056.

DC9: 1940 9th St. NW; 202-483-5000.

Five: 1214B 18th St. NW; 202-331-7123.

Galaxy Hut: 2711 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-525-8646.

George Mason University's Center for the Arts: 4400 University Dr., Fairfax; 703-993-2787.

Folger Theatre: 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077.

Iota Club & Café: 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-522-8340.

Jammin' Java: 227 Maple Ave., Vienna; 703-255-1566.

Jaxx: 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield; 703-569-5940.

Kennedy Center: 2700 F St. NW; 800-444-1324.

Lime Club: 1824 Half St. SW; 202-479-2222.

Love: 1350 Okie St. NE; 202-636-9030.

Mirrors: 33 New York Ave. NE; mirrorsdc.com.

9:30 Club: 815 V St. NW; 202-265-0930.

Palladium: 2135 Queens Chapel Rd. NE; 202-669-0001.

Phish Tea Café: 1335 H St. NE; myspace.com/dcheavensentband.

Platinum: 915 F St. NW; 202-393-3555.

The Red & the Black: 1212 H St. NE; 202-399-3201.

Rock and Roll Hotel: 1353 H St. NE; 202-388-7625.

Smithsonian Jazz Cafe: National Museum of Natural History, Constitution

Avenue & 10th Street NW; 202-633-1000.

State Theatre: 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church; 703-237-0300.

The Music Center at Strathmore: 5301 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda; 301-581-5100.

Twins Jazz: 1344 U St. NW; 202-234-0072.

U.S. Botanic Garden: 245 First St. SW; 202-225-8333.

Warehouse Next Door: 1017 7th St. NW; 202-783-3933.

Washington National Cathedral: Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW; 202-537-6200.

Zanzibar on the Waterfront: 700 Water St. NW; 202-554-9100.

Dining | **WeekendPass**

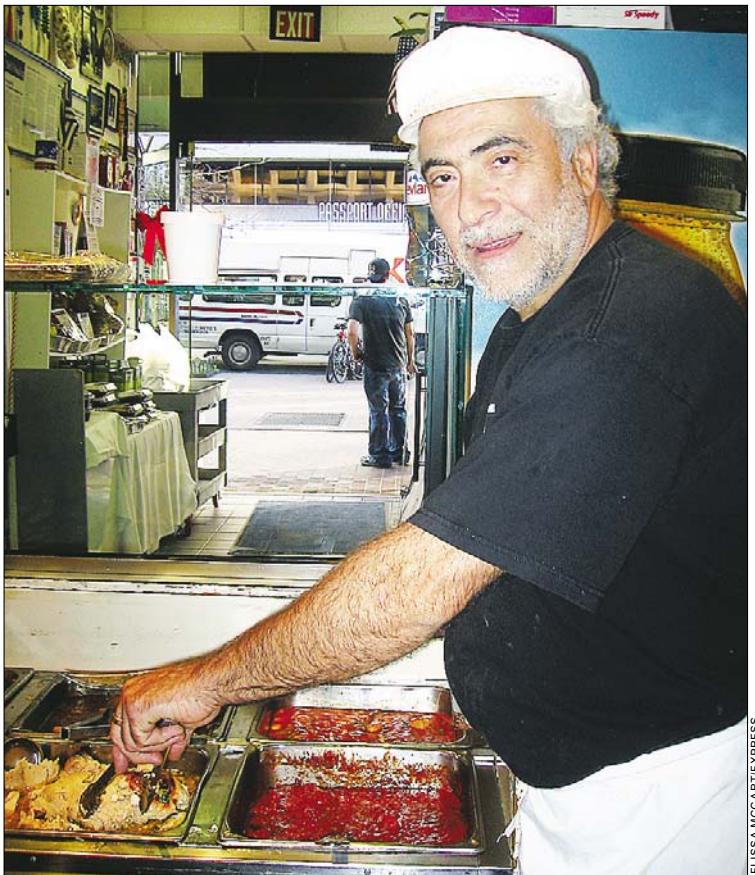
It's Greek to Us

In the heart of the big city, an eatery with small-town appeal

NEIGHBORLY | At 3:30 in the morning at 19th and L streets, Fostieris Fostieris, the owner and chef of the Greek Deli Express, readies his tiny kitchen for the daytime rush as he has every weekday for the past 17 years.

At this ungodly hour, Fostieris accepts his daily deliveries and prepares soups, spanakopita, gyros and other Greek specialties that have won fans who will wait in a lunchtime line winding out the door. And as cold weather approaches, business is "crazy, crazy, crazy," particularly when Fostieris makes his meatloaf for Tuesday's special and meatballs with rice in wine-lemon sauce for Wednesday's.

Every day, Fostieris prepares between 20 and 30 gallons of lentil and avgolemono soups. Making soup is what reminds him most of growing up on Andros, the northernmost of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea. "We used to eat soup every day: navy bean, split pea, lentil... Meat was for once or twice a week." Fostieris does cater to a meat-eating clientele, as indicated by customers shouting out orders for the "authentic gyro platter" (\$8.50) and pastitsio (\$8.50) — a meat-based Greek lasagna, layered with tomatoes, bucatini, cinnamon and nutmeg.



EARLY BIRD: Greek Deli Express owner Fostieris begins his labors before the sun.

Regulars stop in to say hello to Fostieris, a neighborhood institution. He knows his customers, too. As he took a break to catch some fresh air, he greeted regulars by name, asking about family and work as they passed.

Though there's a small Greek community in the area, Fostieris said, he doesn't see them much

during the day. "Not many Greeks work around here," he said. "They come to me when I'm not working and ask, 'Why don't you open up a restaurant that stays open past four o'clock?' I says, 'I'm tired.'"

MELISSA MCCART/EXPRESS

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WeekendPass | Dining

Mugs That Hold Heat

Fancy hot chocolate beverages storm the restaurant scene

SWEET & HOT In the cold-weather market for variations on a hot-chocolate theme, restaurants and cafes offer drinks beyond the cocoa-flavored drinks with mini-marshmallows on supermarket shelves.

Leopold's Kafe and Konditorei in Georgetown whips up a solid traditional Viennese rendition, made with 80 percent cocoa, warmed milk and fresh cream (\$3.75). Meanwhile, on Barracks Row, Belga has just begun to offer its own version of hot chocolate for those who crave something more decadent: a melted chocolate bar

'Tis the season for cocoa treats with alcohol, spices or clouds of cream.

and whipped milk (\$5), served during brunch only.

Prefer a little liquor with your cocoa? Buzz debuts its peppermint mocha this week, flavored with peppermint schnapps, Godiva Dark and coffee (\$8), as well as an alcohol-free white hot chocolate of Godiva White and steamed milk (\$8).

Homemade marshmallow fans



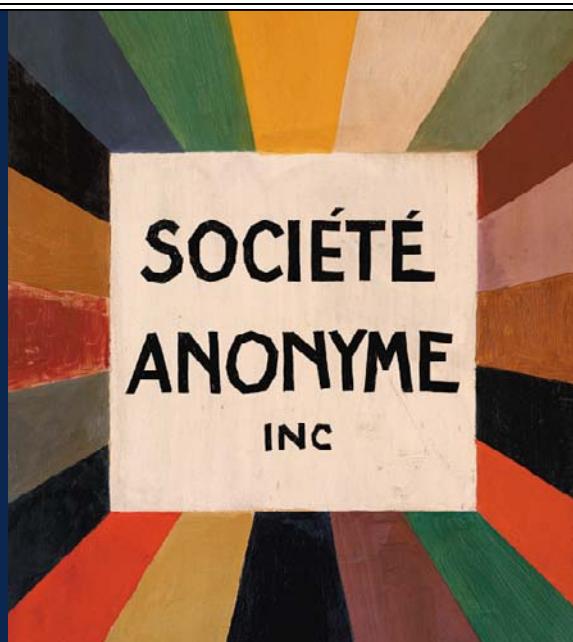
WARMING TREND: Leopold's in Georgetown has decadent Viennese hot chocolate.

cite Blacksalt's version as a favorite, while foodies look forward to the complimentary demitasse of hot chocolate after dinner at Ray's the Steaks.

Those who'd rather steam their own version of an artisanal hot cocoa may want to check out selections at the Curious Grape in Shirlington, such as the Dagoba Organic Xocolatl, with chiles and cinnamon (\$10.99 for 12 ounces) or the best-selling Green & Black's organic hot chocolate (\$5.99 for 5.3 ounces). MELISSA MCCART

- **Leopold's Kafe and Konditorei**, 3318 M St. NW; 202-965-6005.
- **Belga Cafe**, 514 8th St. SE; 202-544-0100.
- **Buzz**, 901 Slater's Lane, Alexandria; 703-600-2899.
- **Blacksalt**, 4883 MacArthur Blvd. NW; 202-342-9101.
- **Ray's the Steaks**, 1725 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-841-7297.
- **The Curious Grape**, 4056 S. 28th St., Arlington; 703-671-8700.

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Artist unknown, Société Anonyme Inc. signboard (detail), n.d. Yale University Art Gallery.

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The exhibition is organized by the Yale University Art Gallery and supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support by Yale alumni and friends.

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WeekendPass



MELT WITH YOU: Zola puts a piquant spin on the traditional cheese fondue.

An Alpine Rapture

Some local fondues argue that 'cheesy' is a high compliment

GOOEY | Whether it's a temperate winter day or a cold one, the season for comfort food is upon us. Germans have a word for what we crave: *gemutlichkeit* — a yearning for all things cozy, warm and inviting. If circumstances don't allow for winter break in the Alps, it's easy to find *gemutlichkeit* at the bottom of a pot of cheese or chocolate.

Frank Morales, executive chef at Zola in Penn Quarter, creates his own spin-off of the traditional Swiss fare: Virginia Farmhouse Cheddar and Pimento Pepper Fondue, served with smoky sausage and sourdough bread (\$10). "The fondue has been on the menu since we've opened and has been one of our home-run items," he said. Though it's popular as a snack at the bar, plenty of customers order it as part of the pre-

event menu — three courses for \$30, available in the dining room from 5 to 7 p.m.

Customers who'd like to double-dip—and have a high threshold for melted gooeyness — may want to order the S'mores Fondue for Two (\$10) made with Zola graham crackers, house-made marshmallows, fresh strawberries and bananas.

Those who equate *gemutlichkeit* with home can purchase Belcolade Belgian chocolate shavings for fondue (\$13 for 13 ounces) to go at Kingsbury Chocolate in Alexandria, while cheese lovers will find Swiss Emmenthaler and Gruyere at Cheesetique for an in-house fondue feast. **MELISSA MCCART**

→ *Zola*, 800 F St. NW; 202-654-0999.
 → *Kingsbury Chocolate*, 1017 King St., Alexandria; 703-548-2800.
 → *Cheesetique*, 2403 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 703-706-5300.

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Fri., Dec. 15: DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SHOW CHOIR

Award-winning choir sings soul-shaking gospel tunes and holiday favorites.

Sat., Dec. 16: LAST TRAIN HOME

D.C. roots-rock favorite delivers original holiday tunes and interpretations of yuletide classics.

Sun., Dec. 17: PRELUDE:

CHRISTMASTIME IN WASHINGTON

Straight-ahead and smooth jazz arrangements of holiday classics.

ALL PERFORMERS AND PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

★ Part of the Gospel Celebration

❖ Part of the Hanukkah Celebration

❖ These performances are made possible, in part, by the Recording Industry's Music Performance Fund as arranged by Local 161-710, American Federation of Musicians.

Mon., Dec. 18: KOL HARUACH

Band with a unique "Klezmer Jazz" style. ❖❖

Tue., Dec. 19: JINNY MARSH'S HOT KUGEL KLEZMER BAND

Klezmer, Yiddish, jazz, Broadway, pop, and more. ❖❖

Wed., Dec. 20: MARK NOVAK / RENEE BRACHFELD

Husband-wife duo performs storytelling, juggling, and more. ❖❖

IN THE FAMILY THEATER

Thu., Dec. 21: NIGHT KITCHEN RADIO THEATER

"Live radio theater" featuring *Christmas in July* and *The Flying Latke*.

Fri., Dec. 22 & Sat., Dec. 23: HOLIDAY VAUDEVILLE

Rhythmic tap dancing, physical comedy, and a modern Klezmer quartet, led by host Sean Grissom.

SPECIAL NOON PERFORMANCE

Sun., Dec. 24: THE U.S. AIR FORCE TROMBONE QUARTET

Holiday classics and popular favorites.

Mon., Dec. 25: 9th ANNUAL ALL-STAR CHRISTMAS DAY JAZZ JAM

With host/vibraphonist Chuck Redd, pianist Robert Redd, drummer Lenny Robinson, trumpeter Tom Williams, bassist James King, and vocalist Delores Williams.

IN THE CONCERT HALL

Tue., Dec. 26: A BAROQUE CHRISTMAS

Period music ensemble Hesperus with Tina Chancey perform baroque classics.

Wed., Dec. 27: BOB PERILLA'S BIG HILLBILLY BLUEGRASS

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LAST TRAIN HOME ■ SATURDAY 12.16



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WeekendPass

Entertainment

The Scene

Continued from E20

Stollenwerck, 9 p.m., \$18.

Warehouse Next Door: Lords, Ingrid, Pusher, 9:30 p.m., \$6.

Washington National Cathedral: Cathedral Choral Society presents "the Joy of Christmas," 4 p.m., \$20-\$65.

Zanzibar: Jamaica Promotional Company presents a Capricorn and Pre-Christmas Affair with Winston Blake, DJ Falton, DJ Fabulous 10 p.m., \$20.

→ SUNDAY

Birchmere: Sean Lennon, Jim Noir, 7:30 p.m., \$35.

Black Cat: Rock 'n' roll garage sale, 8 p.m., free.

Blues Alley: Raul Mascarenhas, 8 & 10 p.m., \$20.

Chick Hall's Surf Club: Blues Jam, 4 p.m., free.

Crossroads: Dancehall Sunday: Jason Steele, Andy G, DJ Chick, 10 p.m., \$15.

DC9: Wes Tucker and the Skillets, the Influence, Rolla, Jeremy Ryn, Chris Cofoni, 9 p.m., \$8.

Folger Shakespeare Library: The Folger Consort "celebrates Christmas at the court of Henry VIII," by performing traditional ballads and carols including, but not limited to, "Greensleeves," 2 p.m., \$40.

Galaxy Hut: The Jet Age, the Plastic Containers, 9:30 p.m., \$5.

Iota: Garrison Starr, David Berkeley, 8:30 p.m., \$10. Last Train Home, Jen Guderman, 2 p.m., \$12.

Jammin' Java: The Rob Horneck Enterprise, 3 p.m., \$8. Paul and Storm, Jonathan Coulton, 8 p.m., \$12.

Jaxx: Localpalooza featuring Public Saxophone, Withered Harvest, Donegal, According to Plan, Prodigium, the Shadow Academy, Richard Chase, 3 p.m., \$12.

Kennedy Center: The Kenney Center Chamber Players perform Beethoven, Crumb & Brahms. Master Chorale of Washington: Christmas Candlelight Concert, 2 p.m., \$20-\$69. Messiah Sing-along, 8 p.m., free (tickets, given away Saturday morning, are required).

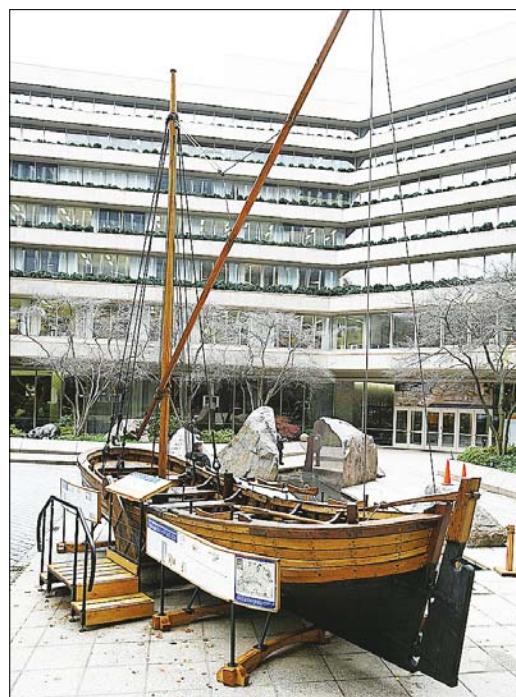
9:30 Club: Rasputina, Aberdeen City, 8:30 p.m., \$20.

Phish Tea Cafe: Heaven Sent Band, 7 p.m., \$10.

Platinum: DJs Alizay, Trini & Super-slice-Muzik Nashun spin hip-hop, reggae and R&B, free with pass from platinumclubdc.com, \$15 after 11 p.m.

Rock and Roll Hotel: My Favorite Highway, Colour Revolt, Crash Boom Bang, 9 p.m., \$10.

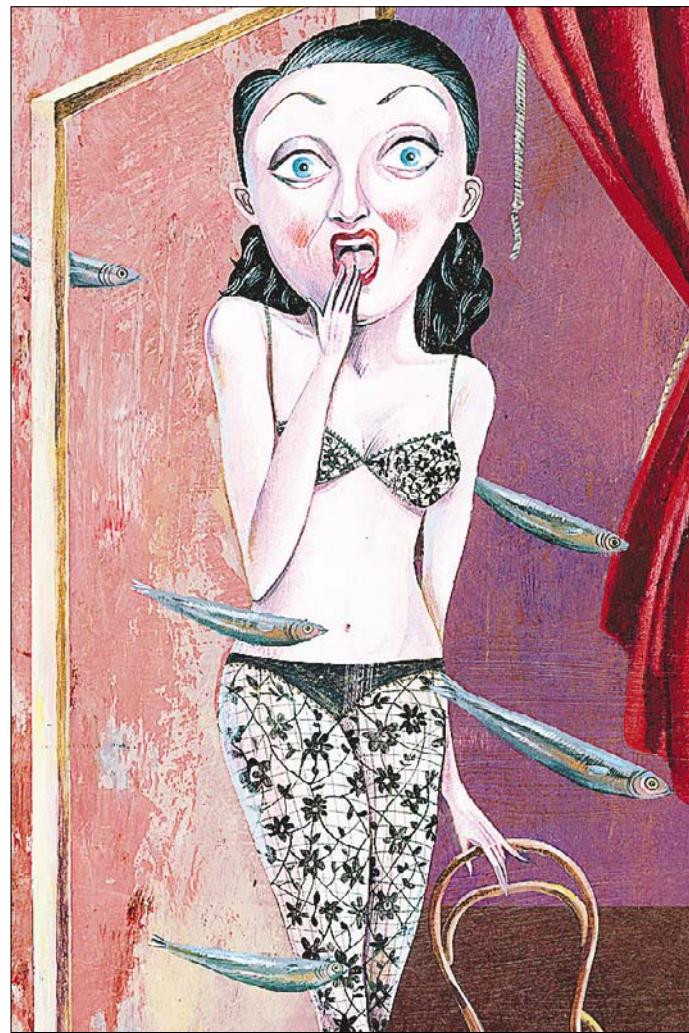
Strathmore: Holiday Concert with the Heritage Signature Corale, 3 & 7 p.m.,



Boats Borne Into the Past

→ **ALMOST 400 YEARS AFTER** Captain John Smith climbed out of it for the last time, his ship — or at least a version of it — comes to rest in the National Geographic Museum's Explorers Hall. A replica of the 30-foot-long wooden shallop is part of the exhibit "Echoes of 1608: John Smith's Voyages on the Chesapeake." This multi-year celebration of Smith's 2,300-mile trip from Jamestown to map the Chesapeake Bay is commemorated with a map of the region Smith and his crew — 14 intrepid English colonists — explored, photographs of the bay, a video presentation and an interactive kiosk. *National Geographic Museum, Explorers Hall, 17th & M streets NW; through Jan. 7, free; 202-857-7588, nationalgeographic.com/museum.* (Farragut North) ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

STAGE | MASTERS IN DRAMA



ANTICS: Not since the heyday of Feydeau and other crafters of farce has such zaniness abounded onstage as in Michael Frayn's "Noises Off." The frenetically funny play, tearing up Arena Stage through Jan. 28, is a backstage romp about a British theater troupe and combines outsize personalities and flying sardines, an unbeatable combination, as even Feydeau knew.

sold out.

Warehouse Next Door: The Bickersons (ex-Del Cielo, Majority Rule), Hot Knives, Den of Thieves, 9:30 p.m., \$6.

Washington National Cathedral: Cathedral Choral Society presents "the Joy of Christmas," 4 p.m., \$20-\$65.

Sight

LAST CHANCE Adamson Gallery:

"Kelly Towles: I Call Shotgun," the artist's hip, tricky paintings, through Sat. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-232-0707, adamsongallery.com.

American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery:

"William H. Johnson's World on Paper," never-before-exhibited prints by the African-American modernist. "Passing Time: The Art of William Christenberry" images of the American South as it wears away, ongoing. "Portraiture Now," through Jan. 7. "Ruth Duckworth: Modernist Sculptor," through Jan. 15. "An Impressionist Sensibility: The Halff Collection," one of the finest private collections from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, through Feb. 4. "Joseph Cornell: Navigating the Imagination," a survey of the visionary modern artist's boxes, collages, objects, dossiers, films and graphic designs, through Feb. 19. "Josephine Baker: Image and Icon," through March 14. "Temple of Invention: History of a National Landmark," the construction of "the noblest of Washington's buildings," through July 8. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, www.npg.si.edu, americanart.si.edu/index3.cfm.

American Painting: "Arrangements in

Focus: New Still Life Paintings," by Barbara Nuss, through Dec. 31. 5118 MacArthur Blvd. NW; 202-244-3244, classicamericanpainting.com.

Anacostia Community Museum: "Two Hundred Years of Black Paper Dolls: The Collection of Arabella Grayson," tracing social change through paper dolls; "D.C. Undercover: Photographs by Steven M. Cummings," citizens of the District wearing caps and hats, through April 29. "Banding Together: Public School Bands as Instruments of Opportunity," through May. 1001 Fort Place SE; 202-633-1000, anacostia.si.edu.

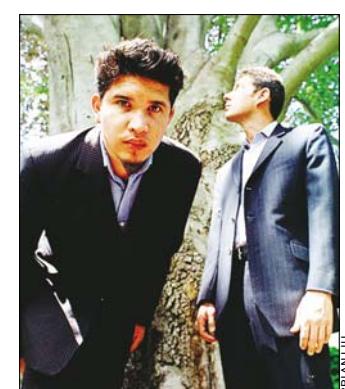
Ann Loeb Bronfman Gallery: "The Song of Songs: The Honeybee in the Garden," illuminated manuscripts by artist and scribe Debra Band, through Jan. 7. 1529 16th St. NW; 202-518-9400, washingtondcjcc.org.

Arlington Arts Center: "Fresh Paint: Process and Possibility," the work of artists focused on materials and process, through Jan. 27. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, arlingtonartscenter.org.

BlackRock Center for the Arts: "A Phenomenon of Nature," glass sculpture by Syl Mathis, Michael Janis and Tim Tate, through Dec. 29. 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown; 301-528-2260,

Friday in

The Washington Post WeekendSection



Built to Chill:

D.C. DJ duo Thievery Corporation celebrates 10 years of its ESL record label. | *Spotlight*

→ Also, the winner of the annual holiday wrapping paper contest; Sylvester Stallone discusses "Rocky Balboa"; new film reviews.

Entertainment | WeekendPass

LIVE ECLETIC ROCK | PLENTY TO GO AROUND



ROBBIE FRY/TWP

FAIR WARNING, YOU TWO: Damien Rice's show at the Lincoln Theatre on Saturday may be the perfect night out for a couple with divergent tastes. Rice is known for ballads that evoke 1970s soft rock, but he's also becoming recognized for alternating his gigs' mellow moments with feedback fests; he performs his hit "Blower's Daughter" as a metal tune.

The Scene

blackrockcenter.org.

City Paws: "Dog City," 20 images capturing the essence of local D.C. canines, through Feb. 1. 1823 14th St. NW; 202-232-7297, citypawsdc.com.

Conner Contemporary Art: "Origin," digital light sculpture by Leo Vilareal, through Dec. 22. 1730 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-588-8750, connercontemporary.com.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: "Contemporary (Re)defined," the museum's largest contemporary exhibit, through Jan. 31. "The Paradise Institute," a film and multimedia installation by Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, through Jan. 14. "Joan of Arc," the French icon as seen through lenses of society, politics and culture, through Jan. 21. "Sight/Insight: Photographs From the Permanent Collection," through Jan. 31. 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700, corcoran.org.

Curator's Office: "To Beat the Devil: Jason Hughes," conceptual works in diverse media, through Dec. 30. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-387-1008, curatorsoffice.com.

DAR Museum: "Myth or Truth? Stories We've Heard About Early America," the museum examines the reliability of "history," through March 31. 1776 D St. NW;

202-572-0563, dar.org.

District of Columbia Arts Center:

"Obsession," Amy Lin's deceptively simple dot sprints, through Jan. 14. 2438 18th St. NW; 202-462-7833, dcartscenter.org.

LAST CHANCE Ellipse Arts Cen-

ter: "All Arlington Salon," all-media exhibition for artists who live, work, study or maintain studios in Arlington, through Sat. 4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington.

ton; 703-228-7710, arlingtonarts.org/ellipseartscenter.htm.

LAST CHANCE EWI's A Woman's

Story Gallery: "Reflections," oils on canvas by Israeli-American Regina Margarita Barker-Barzel, through Sat. Exit Signature Reality, 1307 King St., Alexandria; 703-778-6310, ewint.org.

Flashpoint: "Consume," a group exhibition

Continued on E26

GALLERIES | MULTITALANTED



TRANSFORMER GALLERY

VERY MIXED MEDIA: Transformer Gallery rings out the old year and welcomes the new with a show by Washington-based artists Rachel Waldron and Ryan Nelson, the indie rock guitarist of Dischord Records' Soccer Team. "Drawn to It" explores high-art themes—loss, power, alienation—using cartoons, illustration and appropriation. The show is through Jan. 20.

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BALLET

Open Rehearsal Series

Join ballet scholars for a behind-the-scenes view of premier companies as they prepare on stage for performance. Through the Audio Scholars program, patrons can receive informational commentary about the choreography, dancers, and history of the ballet during the rehearsal, broadcast through wireless headsets. Prior to the start of the rehearsal, a limited number of headsets will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

American Ballet Theatre:

Mixed Repertory. 1/9
Bolshoi Ballet: *Cinderella*. 2/21
The Suzanne Farrell Ballet. 6/6
1:30 p.m. Opera House. \$12 (\$10*)



MUSIC

What to Listen For in Music:
In Search of Romanticism

Join Irwin Shainman, professor emeritus of music at Williams College in Massachusetts, for this four-part series that examines musical inspirations from literature and life in the 19th and 20th centuries.

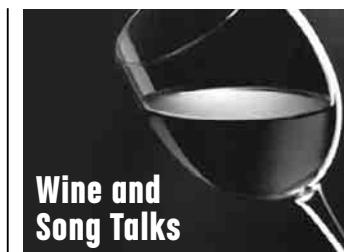
Session I: Richard Strauss: Wagnerian-style music with emphasis on Strauss's operas *Salomé* and *Der Rosenkavalier*. 1/8

Session II: The Violin Concerto: Works by Mozart, Brahms, Sibelius, and Khachaturian. 1/22

Session III: Shakespeare in the 19th Century: Works by Mendelssohn, Berlioz, Verdi, and Prokofiev inspired by William Shakespeare. 1/29

Session IV: Dmitri Shostakovich: The composer's magnificent symphonies and string quartets. 2/5

6 p.m. Terrace Gallery. Series \$48;
Each event \$15

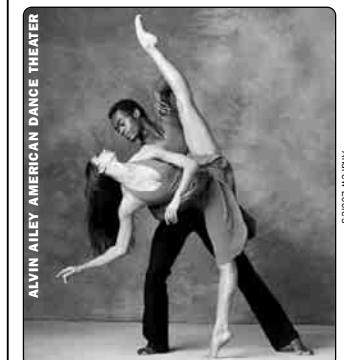
Wine and
Song Talks

Dangerous Music: Music can go beyond expression to provide a critique of society and politics. Learn how music has threatened the status quo. Featuring tasting of wines of Germany. Must be age 21 or older to participate. 2/8

John Williams: The Cinema and the Scores: One of the most popular and successful American composers of all time, Williams has created music to thrill us at the multiplex and move us in the concert hall. 4/6

Must be age 21 or older to participate.

6 p.m. Terrace Gallery. Each event \$20



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Entertainment

The Scene

Continued from E25

that asks viewers to consider the nuance and ambiguity inherent in our concepts of consumption, through Jan. 6. 916 G St. NW; 202-315-1310, flashpointdc.org.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Technologies of Writing in the Age of Print," an exhibit examining the way individuals in early modern Europe relied upon pen and paper to negotiate what we now refer to as "information overload," through Feb. 17. 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077, folger.edu.

Foundry Gallery: "Holiday Show," work by Foundry Members, through Dec. 31. 1314 18th St. NW; 202-463-0203, foundry-gallery.org.

Fraser Gallery: "Sky Light," by Maxwell MacKenzie, through Jan. 6. 7700 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 301-718-9651, thefrasergallery.com.

Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: "Freer — A Taste for Japanese Art," through Jan. 1. "Freer and Tea: Raku, Hagi, Karatsu," through Jan. 1. "In the Beginning: Bibles Before the Year 1000," through Jan. 7. "Perspectives: Simryn Gill," the Singapore-born contemporary artist transforms found objects into installations, through April 29. "Parades:

GALLERIES | ANCIENT WISDOM



JUXTAPOSITION: At Strathmore through Jan. 6, Kay Stratman and Marie Shaughnessy's work fuses ancient Asian techniques with modern themes.

Freer Ceramics Installed by Gwyn Hanssen Pigott," through Nov. 4, 2007. Jefferson Drive & 12th Street SW; 202-633-4880, www.asia.si.edu.

Galerie Myrtis: "Art of the Collectors," African and African-American works of art from prominent local collectors, ongoing, 500 9th St. SE; 202-548-7575.

Gallery Neptune: "A Winter Art Exhibition," painting by Greg Ferrand, mixed media by Lisa Williamson, dolls by Gwendolyn Aqui, through Dec. 30. 4808 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-718-0809, galleryneptune.com.

Gallery Plan B: "Gallery Group Show," paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, drawings and photography from gallery



Edgar Meyer



Chris Thile



Urban Bush Women

Edgar Meyer, bass Chris Thile, mandolin

Saturday, January 13 at 8 pm

Brilliant bassist Edgar Meyer and mandolinist Chris Thile of Nickel Creek join forces for a richly diverse and original program of American music that crosses stylistic boundaries. Called "the most remarkable virtuoso" by *The New Yorker*, Meyer's many collaborations include the best-selling recording *Appalachia Waltz* Trio with Yo-Yo Ma and Mark O'Connor. In addition to his GRAMMY-award winning album, mandolin dynamo Thile is known for his work with such notables as the Chieftains, the Dixie Chicks, and Hank Williams, Jr.

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This tour of *Urban Bush Women* is made possible by a grant from *Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation* in partnership with the *National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program*.

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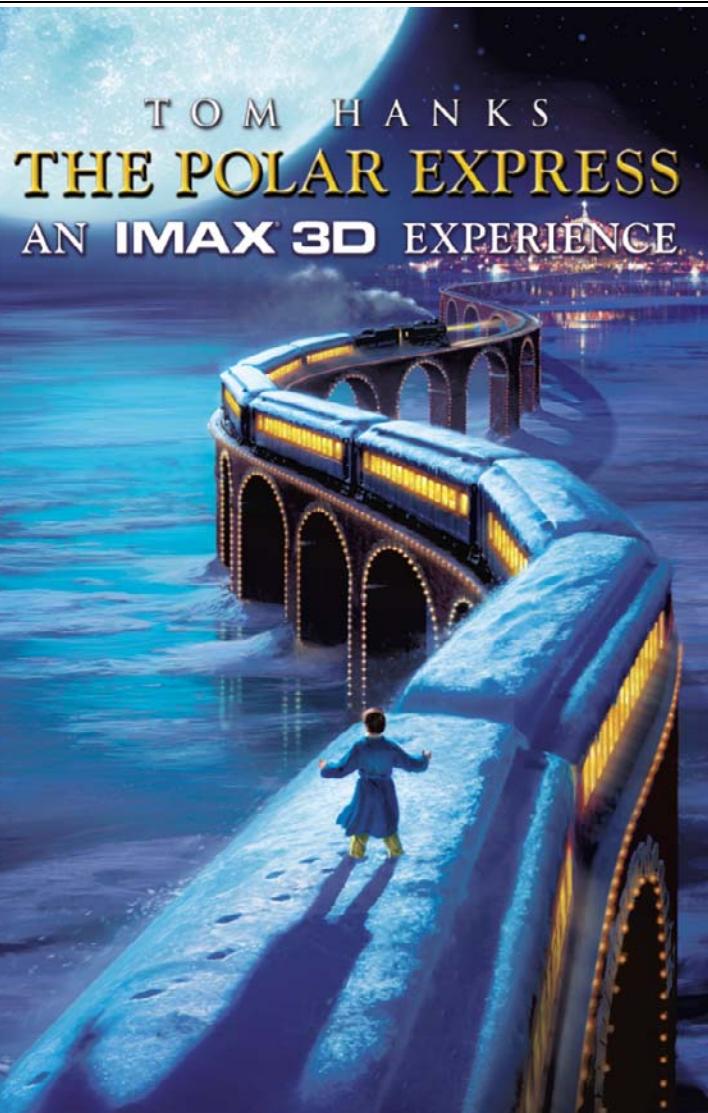
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The Scene**STAGE | NURTURE VS. NURTURE**

artists, through Dec. 30. 1530 14th St. NW; 202-234-2711, galleryplanb.com.

G Fine Art: "Blending Lines," by Iona Rozeal Brown; "Juke," a video installation by Jefferson Pinder, both through Jan. 6. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-462-1601, gfineartdc.com.

Glenview Mansion: "Rockville Art League's December Show," 150 works from a variety of artists, through Dec. 31. 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville Civic Center Park; 240-314-5006, rockvillemd.gov/arts.

Goethe-Institut: "Lichtbogen/Arc d'Light," steel sculptor Wulf Kirschner and painter Nicola Staglioch collaborate, through Jan. 31. 812 7th St. NW; 202-289-1200, goethe.de/washington.

Govinda Gallery: "Elvis at 21: New York to Memphis," Alfred Wertheimer's revealing portraits and candid shots of a young Elvis, through Dec. 30. 1227 34th St. NW; 202-333-1180, govindagallery.com.

Hemphill: "Jacob Kainen," figurative paintings and works on paper; "Windows and Signs," by Godfrey Frankel, through Dec. 22. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, hemphillfinearts.com.

Hillyer Art Space: "Across the Page: Selections From Pyramid Atlantic's Artists



C. STANLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE: In the snowy California mountains of 1850, a couple of grizzled old miners come upon something of a miracle—an abandoned baby boy. Norman Allen's "The Christmas Foundling," based on the stories of Bret Harte, tells the heartwarming tale of what happens when the men are confronted, years later, by the boy's aunt, who vows to give him a citified education. Journeymen Theater presents a staging of the play at H Street Playhouse through Dec. 30.

and Archive," through Jan. 1. 9 Hillyer Court NW; 202-338-0680, artsandartists.org.

LAST CHANCE Hirshhorn Museum:

"The Uncertainty of Objects and Ideas: Recent Sculpture," through Jan. 7. "Collection in Context," an exploration of con-

temporary sculpture, through Jan. 7. "Black Box: Magnus Wallin," the Swedish artist's nightmares and dreams-

capes in high-tech animation; through May 20. "Ways of Seeing: John Baldessari Explores the Collection," Baldessari's installation uses works from the museum's holdings, through July 26. 7th Street & Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-1000, hirshhorn.org.

Irvine Contemporary: "The Trophy Room," creepy/funny sculptures of life forms from a future genetic revolution by Joshua Levine; "Three New Artists from China," pieces by Li Jian Ping, Liu Jian and Ye Qiang, through Jan 7. 1412 P St. NW; 202-332-8767, irvinecontemporary.com.

LAST CHANCE Jane Haslem Gallery: "A Harvest of New Works on Paper," an assortment of recent works by gallery artists including DeWitt Hardy, George Harkins and Lincoln Perry, through Fri. 2025 Hillyer Place NW; 202-232-4644, janehaslemgallery.co.

The Jerusalem Fund Gallery: "Jerusalem: Between Visions and Realities," an exploration of the city's complex historical, religious and emotional significance, through Dec. 22. 2425 Virginia Ave. NW; 202-338-1958, thejerusalemfund.org.

Kathleen Ewing Gallery: "A. Aubrey Bodine," a retrospective exhibition celebrating his 100th birthday; "F.I. Wall: New Work, Deconstruction and Reconstruction," through Dec. 22. 1609 Connecticut Ave., NW; 202-328-0955, kathleenewing-

Continued on E28

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The Scene

Continued from E27

gallery.com.

Katzen Arts Center: "Marc Cameron Boyd: Logocentric Playground," through Dec. 15. "High Times, Hard Times: New York Painting 1967-1975"; "Gifts from the Katherine Dreier Estate"; "William F. Calfie and the Washington Modernists"; Carlos Saura: Flamenco"; "Twenty-first century Ibero-American Art"; "Guy Dill: A Decade"; "Talia Green: Entropy Filigree," all through Jan. 21. 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-885-2787, american.edu/

museum.

Library of Congress: "Illuminating the Word: the Saint John's Bible," part of the first handwritten, illuminated Bible to be commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in more than 500 years, plus ornate Bibles from the Middle Ages, through Dec. 23. "Enduring Outrage: Editorial Cartoons by Herblock," an exhibition of original work by the Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist, through Jan. 20. "Cartoon America: Highlights From the Art Wood Collection," through Jan. 27. 101 Independence Drive SE; 202-707-8000, loc.gov/exhibits.

Luther W. Brady Art Gallery: "The Franz and Virginia Bader Fund: Artists of

EXHIBITS | THE WILD GONE WILD



BAARD NAES/BBC WILDLIFE MUSEUM/NAT. HISTORY MUSEUM

COLD? Through Feb. 4, the National Geographic Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year group show offers striking scenes from around the world.

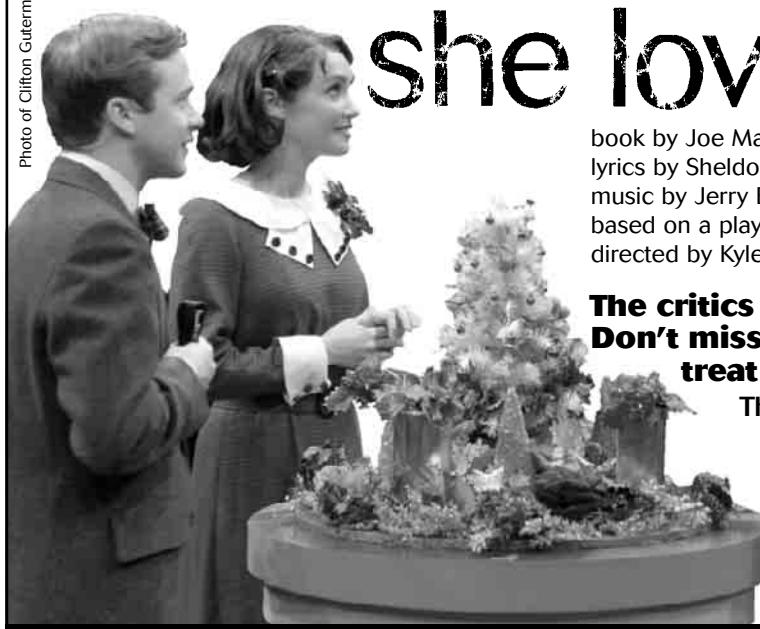
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"...flowery and romantic." — Jayne Blanchard, *Washington Times*

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Photo of Clifton Guterman and Brynn O'Malley by Scott Suchman.



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molly smith
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"the First Three Years," the work of artists who have been awarded a Bader Fund grant, through Jan. 26. Media and Public Affairs Building, 805 21st St. NW; 202-994-1525, gwu.edu/~bradyart.

Marsha Mateyka Gallery: "Whiteline and Watercolor: Recent Works," by Aline Feldman, through Jan. 20. 2012 R St. NW; 202-328-0088, marshamateyka gallery.com.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library: "Shared Images: Nepalese Art," artwork by faculty and students of Kathmandu Don Bosco College, through Jan. 3. 901 G St. NW; 202-727-0321, dclibrary.org.

National Academy of Sciences:

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Photo of Nancy Robinette by Carol Rosegg.

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The Scene

"Nikon's Small World Winning Images," through Dec. 20. "Hidden Codes," paintings of genetic code by Dennis Ashbaugh, through May 10. 2100 C St. NW; 202-334-2436, nationalacademies.org.

National Air and Space Museum:

"Earth From Space," rare views of surface events such as hurricanes, dust storms, forest fires and volcanic eruptions, through Jan. 7. "Treasures of American History," many of the National Museum of American History's choicest items — from Dorothy's ruby slippers to Jacqueline Kennedy's inaugural ball gown — find a temporary home, ongoing. 6th Street and Independence Ave., 202-633-1000, earthfromspace.si.edu.

National Archives: "Eyewitness: American Originals From the National Archives," written and recorded firsthand accounts of major historical events, through Jan. 1. Constitution Avenue between 7th & 9th streets NW; 202-357-5300, www.archives.gov.

National Building Museum: "The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture and Design," through June 30. "Washington, Symbol and City," ongoing. "Cityscapes Revealed," highlights from the museum's permanent collection, ongoing. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, nbm.org.

National Gallery of Art: "Constable's Great Landscapes: The Six-Foot Paintings," through Dec. 31. "The Streets of New York: American Photographs From the Collection, 1938-1958," through Jan. 15. "Alexandre-Louis-Marie Charpentier," the French artist's works in a variety of media, through Jan. 28. "Prayers and Portraits: Unfolding the Netherlandish Diptych," pieces from the 15th and 16th centuries, through Feb. 4. "Strokes of Genius: Rembrandt's Prints and Drawings," an outstanding collection of the Flemish master's works, opens Sun., through March 8. "An Artist's Vision: Romantic Traditions in Britain," a survey of British romanticism with works by William Blake, J.M.W. Turner, Samuel Palmer and others, through March 18. 600 Constitution Ave. NW; 202-289-3360, www.nga.gov.

National Geographic Society: "Echoes of 1608: John Smith's Voyages on the Chesapeake," includes a replica of Smith's 30-foot-long boat, through Jan. 7. "Bizarre Beasts, Past and Present," an interactive exhibit showcasing weird and wonderful animals, through Feb. 2. "Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2006," winning and commended entries, through Feb. 4. 1145 17th St. NW; 202-857-7588, nationalgeographic.com/museum.

STAGE | A TIGHT JAZZ COMBO



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CLASSIC COOL: MetroStage's "King of Cool: The Life and Music of Nat King Cole" is part play, part musical, all smoothly performed showmanship. Jimi Ray Malary, with help from a three-man backing band, brings the late, great, soulful crooner back to life for a look at his performing career, all the way up to the seasonal, uh, chestnut, "The Christmas Song."

National Library of Medicine: "Visible Proofs: Forensic Views of the Body," ongoing. 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda; 301-496-6308, www.nlm.nih.gov.

National Museum of African Art:

"Resonance From the Past," African sculpture from the New Orleans Museum of Art, ongoing. "Body of Evidence," contemporary African artists use the body, ongoing. 950 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000, nmafa.si.edu.

National Museum of Health and Medicine:

"Scarred for Life," 35 ink prints by Ted Meyer showing surgical scar marks, through March 31. 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, AFIP, Building 54; 202-782-220, nmhm.washingtondc.museum.

National Museum of Natural History:

"Nature's Best: Experience Nature Through the Act of Photography," through March 19. "Visual Griots of Mali," 40 black and white photographs by Malian youth, through April. "Transitions: Photographs by Robert Creamer," through June 24. 10th Street & Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, www.mnh.si.edu.

National Museum of Women in the Arts:

"The Book as Art," 20 years of artists' books, through Feb. 4. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000, nmwa.org.

National Postal Museum: "Out of the Mails," examples of the gutsy and resourceful ways Revolutionary War-era citizens found to circumvent regular mail channels, ongoing. "Trailblazers & Trend-

setters: The Art of the Stamp," through Oct. 3, 2007. 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE; 202-633-5500, postalmuseum.si.edu.

LAST CHANCE Numark Gallery:

"The Last Show," artists who have worked closely with the gallery take part in its final exhibit, through Sat. 625-27 E St. NW; 202-628-3810, numarkgallery.com.

Pass Gallery:

"Pass Group Show," paintings and digital prints, through Sat., 1617 S St. NW; community.webtv.net/PASSGALLERY/PASSGROUPSHOW2006.

Project 4: Kate Hardy's watercolors, Noelle Tan's overexposed silver and gelatin prints, through Dec. 23. 903 U St. NW; 202-232-4340.

Randall Scott Gallery: "No Fancy Titles," group exhibition, through Dec. 30. 1326 14th St. NW; 202-332-0806.

S. Dillon Ripley Center: "Clash of Empires: The British, French and Indian War, 1754-1763," a comprehensive exhibition focusing on the bloody and world-shaking three-sided war fought on North American soil, opens Fri., through March 15. 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-633-1000, www.si.edu/ripley.

Strathmore: "73rd Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature," through Jan. 6. 5301 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda; 301-581-5200, strathmore.org.

Target Gallery: "Mixed Messages," a mixed media exhibition that represents artists from the U.S. and abroad, through Jan. 14. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-838-4565, torpedofactory.org.

Textile Museum: "Pieces of a Puzzle: Classical Persian Carpet Fragments," through Jan 7. "Mantles of Merit: Chin Textiles From Mandalay to Chittagong," through Feb. 25. 2320 S St. NW; 202-554-2400.

Continued on E30

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667-0441, textilemuseum.org.

Touchstone Gallery: "30th Anniversary Show and Sale," "Playing Outside," "Familiarity by Jeff Hensley," all through Jan. 7. 406 7th St. NW; 202-347-2787, touchstonegallery.com.

Transformer: D.C.-based emerging artists Ryan Nelson and Rachel Waldron explore cartoons and illustration as a way of discussing appropriation, opens Sat., through Jan. 20. 1404 P St. NW; 202-483-1102, transformergallery.org.

Union Gallery: "Selections: Works by University of Maryland Students," through Dec. 14. University of Maryland, College Park, 301-314-8492, union.umd.edu/gallery.

U.S. Botanic Garden: "Savor the Season," a whimsical holiday exhibit, through Jan. 7. "Lines on Paper: How a Fantasy Becomes a Garden," through Jan. 15. 413 7th St. NW; 202-783-2963, usbg.gov.

Warehouse: "Dynamic Field," underrepresented U.S. artists present the city as a

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stage on which citizens interact with each other and the constructed world, through Dec. 23. 1021 7th St. NW; 202-783-3933,

warehousetheater.com.

Washington Printmakers Gallery: "Other Worlds," prints by Betty MacDon-

ald, through Dec. 31. 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-7757, washingtonprintmakers.com.

Washington Studio School: Drawings, paintings and sculpture by certificate program students, through Dec. 22. 4505 Stanford St., Chevy Chase; 301-718-7210, washingtonstudioschool.org.

WVSA ARTiculate Gallery: "Every Dog Has Its Day: Celebrating Our Canine Companions," doggy portraits, through Dec. 14. 1100 16th St. NW; 202-261-1233, wvsarts.org/gallery.

Zenith Gallery: "Millennium Art Center Artists," through Dec. 31. "Survivors Among Survivors," paintings by Renee du Rocher, through Jan. 4. "Altered States," realist painter Drew Ernst explores the rapidly changing world, through Jan. 14. 413 7th St. NW; 202-783-2963, zenithgallery.com.

Stage

Babel: How It Was Done in Odessa:

Stories adapted from the work of Russian playwright Isaac Babel by his grandson, Andrei Malaev-Babel, through Sun.,

Black Box Theatre, Communications Arts Center, Montgomery College, Chicago and Philadelphia avenues, Takoma Park; 301-650-1368, montgomerycollege.edu.

The Beaux' Stratagem: Two recently impoverished gentlemen scheme to woo two women of status and fortune, through Dec. 31, \$19-\$76. Shakespeare Theatre Company, 450 7th St. NW; 202-547-1122, Shakespearetheatre.org.

Bethlehem Nativity Drama: Francisco de Aruajo's staging of the seasonal play comes to D.C. directly from a long string of performances in the Holy Land, opens Sat., through Dec. 24. Takoma Park Seventh-Day Adventist Church (outdoor performance), 6810 Eastern Ave. NW; free.

The Christmas Foundling: Journeymen Theater Ensemble presents Normal Allen's heartwarming tale, set in the 1850s, about an abandoned baby, two grumpy miners and a holiday miracle, through Dec. 30, \$20, \$15 students, seniors. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 202-669-7229, journeymentheater.org.

The Christmas Revels: Early American music, dance and drama in celebration of the winter solstice, through Sun., \$12-



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The Scene

\$40. Lisner Auditorium, 21st & H streets NW; 202-723-7528, revelsdc.org.

Cinderella: Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical version of the fairy tale, through Jan. 7, \$34-\$44, kids half-price. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-3400, olneytheatre.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Coyaba

Dance Theater: Dance Place's resident company performs in celebration of Kwanzaa, Sat. & Sun., \$15-\$20. Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE; 202-269-1600, danceplace.org.

Faith Healer: Brian Friel's tale of a faith healer revealing a dark memory via his own confession, through Dec. 23, \$15-\$20. Gunston Theater One, 2700 Lang St., Arlington; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com.

Juanita the Walrus Goes on a Shopping Spree: The baby-sitting area of a shopping mall serves as the setting in this musical for children of all ages, through Sun., \$10. Venus Theatre, 9148 Canterbury Riding, Laurel; 301-470-2460, venustheatre.org.

Junie B. Jones & a Little Monkey Business: In this musical comedy, precocious kindergartner Junie B. feels the pangs of sibling rivalry while her mom is still pregnant, through Jan. 14, \$10-\$20. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; ImaginationStage.org.

King of Cool: The Life and Music of Nat King Cole: A cabaret featuring Cole's career and personal life, featuring Jimi Ray Malary, through Dec. 23, \$35. MetroStage, 101 N. Royal St., Alexandria; 800-494-8497.

SATURDAY ONLY Lobster Boy Revue: Annual shenanigans from D.C.'s most disgraceful vaudeville and burlesque troupe, 8 p.m., \$15. Chief Ike's Mambo Room, 1725 Columbia Road NW; 202-462-6331, lobsteryboy.net.

The Long Christmas Ride Home: Paula Vogel's play about fragile family bonds is told through puppetry, music and storytelling, through Dec. 31, \$39-\$55. Metheny Theatre, 101 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, studiotheatre.org.

LAST CHANCE Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis: An aging dominatrix receives a surprising birthday visitor, through Sun., \$20-\$48. Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D St. NW; 202-393-3939, woollymammoth.net.

Middle Eastern Student Concert: JOMDC Middle Eastern Dance Program adult students perform, Sat. & Sun., \$12-\$15. Joy of Motion Dance Center, 2201 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-362-



COURTESY FREER GALLERY OF ART

An Odd Couple — With Subtitles

→ AS PART OF THE "Discoveries 2006 Part Two: D.C. Premieres" series, the Freer Gallery's Meyer Auditorium presents a screening of Kongdej Jaturanrassamee's "Midnight, My Love." It focuses on a taxi driver whose references — from music to romance — are stuck in the past. This Thai study in twilight and solitude is jolted into the present by a shot of danger from a vulnerable prostitute and the secrets he holds dear. *Freer Gallery of Art, 1150 Jefferson Drive SW; Fri., 7 p.m., free with reservation; 202-633-4880.* (Smithsonian) ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

3042, joyofmotion.org.

Movin' Out: Twyla Tharp's Broadway hit comes featuring 24 classic songs by Billy Joel, through Dec. 23, \$41.25-\$86.25. National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-628-6161, nationaltheatre.org.

Noises Off: British director Jonathan Munby squeezes maximum zaniness out of this hysterical play about the theater troupe in farcical disarray, opens Fri., through Jan. 28, \$55-\$74. Arena Stage, 101 6th St. SW; 202-488-3300, arenastage.org.

The Nutcracker: Classika Theatre tackles a classic in this dance-theater work told with live action and beautifully crafted puppets, through Dec. 31, \$12-\$14. The Arts Barn, 211 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg; 301-258-6349.

The Nutcracker: The Washington Ballet reveals new holiday traditions with the return of its production of this masterpiece, through Dec. 23, \$10-\$20. Warner Theatre, 13th & E Sts. NW; 202-397-SEAT, warnertheatre.com.

A Raisin in the Sun: Lorraine Hans-

berry's play about race, class and family struggle performed by the African Continuum Theatre Company, through Jan. 7, \$32-\$37. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NW; 202-299-7993, africanocontinuumtheatre.com.

Seasonal Disorder: The Washington Improv Theater's annual take on holiday madness. No one is spared, no one gets what he or she wants and no one has a script to work from in this lively, ever-changing show, through Dec. 30, \$10-\$12. Flashpoint, Mead Theatre Lab, 916 G St. NW; through 202-315-1318, washingtonimprovtheater.com

She Loves Me: Budapest in the 1930s is the setting for this romantic musical comedy about secret pen pals and first impressions; Ernst Lubitsch fans will recognize the story that became his 1940 film "The Shop Around the Corner," through Dec. 31, \$55-\$74. Arena offers a Family Fun Pack for \$10; two patrons must be between the ages of 5 and 18. Arena Stage, 101 6th St. SW; 202-488-3300, arenastage.org.

The Skriker: A shape-shifting fairy pursues two young women, Josie and Lily, hungry for the latter's unborn child, in Caryl Churchill's dark fairy tale, through Dec. 23, \$12-\$18, Warehouse Theater, 1021 7th St. NW; 202-783-3933, warehousetheater.com

The Snow Queen: Hans Christian Andersen's holiday fable about the ultimate ice princess and some plucky children, through Dec. 31, \$12-\$14. The Arts Barn, 211 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg; 301-258-6349.

SATURDAYS ONLY Son of a Bush: Gross National Product's timely sketch show, ongoing, \$30; Warehouse Theater, 1021 7th St. NW; 202-783-3933, warehousetheater.com.

Tehreema Mitha Dance Company: Classical, classical-contemporary and contemporary solos and ensembles dances, Sun., \$20-\$25. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; 202-399-

7993, atlasarts.org.

TempOdyssey: A screwball comedy about the drudgery of temp work featuring characters such as Last Day Girl, Nepotism Guy and Dead Body Boy, through Dec. 31, \$29. The Studio Theatre 2ndstage, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-332-3300, studiotheatre.org.

War of the Worlds: Adapted from H.G. Wells' novel and Orson Welles' radio play, this play explores the masterful manipulation of the media and its impact on ordinary Americans, through Jan. 14, \$25-\$32. D.C. Arts Center, 2438 18th St. NW; 703-683-2824, scenatheatre.org.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown: This heartwarming, plucky musical featuring the "Peanuts" gang is in its — good grief! — 56th year, through Sun., \$10-\$15. Black Box Theatre, Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, Md.; 410-772-4900, howardcc.edu/studentarts.

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